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# Oregon Humane Society MAGAZINE

winter | 2016

**EVERY SHELTER PET'S DREAM:  
A Home for the Holidays**

**AFTER THE FLOOD:  
Helping Louisiana Pets**

**JUSTICE FOR ANIMALS:  
Investigation  
Brings Charges**



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PHOTO BY LAURA HINRICHS



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## Direct Line

from Executive Director  
Sharon Harmon

Angels are all around us, and I'm not kidding. I meet them every day: a volunteer who comes in to walk dogs during a rainstorm; a couple who adopts a senior cat with diabetes; a donor who phones in a gift of \$44.85 to the telethon and when asked why she is giving such an unusual amount, says "because that's what I managed to save this month."

We are overwhelmed during this holiday season by slogans and platitudes imploring us to do good. Enough, I say! When you are lucky enough to have worked at the Oregon Humane Society for more than 25 years like me, you've seen firsthand how love can pour out of people without a single word of encouragement.

Take a look through this issue of the magazine to see what I mean. You'll read about a selfless OHS volunteer who went to North Carolina to help animals after devastating floods hit the state (page 7). She took it upon herself, and her pocketbook, to personally rescue a young dog whose future looked bleak.

Then there's the story of Robbie, a terrified dog who would have had almost no chance of adoption without the help of the OHS behavior team (page 9). The team took Robbie out of the OHS kennels and into their own office every day so he could feel safe and secure. Our behavior team has hearts that (to borrow a phrase) may indeed be two sizes too big—their small office is never without one or two OHS dogs receiving a daily mega-dose of TLC.

You don't need to be a behavior expert or tireless volunteer to be an angel. Even the smallest act can have a ripple effect. When one of our employees crocheted a sweater for a hairless hamster, she was only concerned that the hamster might be chilly (page 5). She had no idea her small act of kindness would turn Silky the hamster into an international star and get her adopted the minute she became available.

The story about 245 rescued birds becoming available for adoption is cause to celebrate (page 5). But there's more to this tale. A cadre of dedicated people, including volunteers, has been providing daily care for the birds since July. Many have formed bonds with animals they've been caring for and the upcoming farewells will be bittersweet.

If you are looking to help this holiday season, there are many, many ways. You can volunteer, donate, or spread the word about helping pets to your friends and neighbors. You can adopt one of the Home for the Holidays pets featured in this magazine, or one of the hundreds of pets you'll see on our website.

Here at OHS, every time an animal goes to a loving home we cry and rejoice and look around to see who we can help next, and we do all these things at the same time. For me, that's what the spirit of the holidays is all about. I hope you and your family can feel that spirit this holiday season and throughout the new year.

For the pets,

Sharon Harmon  
Executive Director



## HELP FOR FLOOD-STRICKEN LOUISIANA: OHS RECEIVE SHELTER PETS

Nearly 70 cats and kittens from flood-ravaged Louisiana arrived at the Oregon Humane Society this fall to get a second chance at life. The pets came to OHS from Acadiana Animal Aid, a nonprofit shelter outside of Lafayette, Louisiana. Acadiana, which was not hit by flooding, is one of many Louisiana animal groups struggling to cope with a huge influx of animals from residents who can no longer care for their pets and from other shelters that are no longer operational.

The animals transferred from Acadiana were in Louisiana shelters prior to the flood, awaiting the chance to find new homes. By finding space at other shelters for these pets, local groups can take in more animals who have been displaced due to the flooding and reunite those pets with their families.

### SECOND CHANCE FOR FELINES: A FIRST

The pets from Louisiana were flown to Hillsboro Airport by Wings of Rescue, thanks to a network of organizations that are working to save thousands of pets. Shelters in Louisiana have struggled for years with problem of cat overpopulation, and the recent transfer of cats to OHS and other shelters marks the first time that felines from Acadiana have been placed with other shelters.



Cat from Louisiana arrives at OHS.

"Every pet that arrives at OHS from Louisiana represents a life that has been saved," said Sharon Harmon, OHS executive director. "OHS has a long history of helping other shelters and we were glad to lend a hand during this disaster."

**ONLINE:** See photo and video of the Louisiana cats at [oregonhumane.org/louisiana-cats](http://oregonhumane.org/louisiana-cats). 📺

## OHS MEDICAL DIRECTOR HONORED: NAMED ALUMNI FELLOW

Oregon State University (OSU) has honored Dr. Kris Otteman, OHS Shelter Medicine Director, with a special award that recognizes OSU alumni who have distinguished themselves in their professions



Dr. Kris Otteman with award.

and communities.

Dr. Otteman, OSU classes of 1982 and 1986, was named Alumni Fellow of the College of Veterinary Medicine by the OSU Alumni Association. After operating her own veterinary practice and co-founding Banfield Pet Hospital, she came to OHS in 2007. At OHS, she directed the shelter's new veterinary hospital and launched a teaching program for veterinary students.

### FIRST IN THE NATION

The teaching partnership between OSU and OHS became the nation's first shelter-based veterinary medicine residency and internship program. Last year, 75 veterinary students completed courses at the OHS Medical Center under the guidance of Dr. Kirk Miller, a full-time OSU faculty member assigned to the program. Dr. Otteman herself and OHS Lead Veterinarian, Dr. Jacqueline Blanchette, are also courtesy faculty.

Since the medical center began operating, more than 100,000 shelter animals have benefited from surgeries performed by the 24-person medical team. The state-of-the-art hospital is equipped with three surgical suites, a radiological unit, a pharmacy, a laboratory and recovery rooms for cats and dogs. The standard of care is straightforward: OHS wants every shelter animal to receive the same quality of care as a pet owner would want for their own pet.

As part of the OSU Alumni Fellows Celebration on October 28, Dr. Otteman presented "Innovations in Veterinary Education and the Impact on Animal Welfare" to students and faculty. 📺

## RESCUED BIRDS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

A Damascus man charged with animal neglect has surrendered ownership of 245 exotic birds, allowing OHS to move ahead with the process of offering the birds for adoption. OHS plans to begin adoptions the first week of December.

The rescued birds, part of one of the largest animal seizures in Oregon history, include African grey parrots, macaws, cockatoos, conures, pigeons, doves, finches, Amazons, cockatiels, parakeets and others.

The owner of the birds, who identified himself as a long-time breeder, was indicted in October by a Clackamas County grand jury on multiple counts of criminal animal neglect. OHS Executive Director Sharon Harmon applauded Clackamas County Deputy District Attorney Eriks Berzins for his work on the case and for gaining an indictment on multiple criminal charges.

OHS was alerted to the condition of the birds by a citizen who was concerned about overcrowding, poor sanitation and inadequate air circulation inside a barn housing the birds in Damascus. OHS found birds living in cages with feces and waste that was sometimes several inches deep. Many of the birds were suffering from severe self-mutilation and overgrown nails and beaks.

Since July, OHS has kept the birds at an emergency animal shelter where they receive daily care and medical attention.

### ONLINE ADOPTION APPLICATION

While the legal case against the owner continues in the courts, the owner's decision to surrender the birds to OHS clears the way for

adoptions to proceed. If you are interested in adopting a bird, please complete an online application at [oregonhumane.org/bird-adoption-applications](http://oregonhumane.org/bird-adoption-applications).

Potential adopters should be aware that many of the exotic birds offered for adoption will have health, dietary and socialization needs unique to their species. OHS adoption staff will be available to discuss the special needs—and rewards—of having a bird as a companion.

**ONLINE:** See photos and video of the rescue at [oregonhumane.org/birdsrescue](http://oregonhumane.org/birdsrescue). 📺



These rescued birds will soon be available for adoption.



Silky in the tiny sweater that made her an Internet sensation.

## OHS HAIRLESS HAMSTER GETS SWEATER, RULES THE INTERNET

What do you do if you notice a hairless animal who seems to be chilly? In the case of Silky the hairless hamster, an OHS employee decided to crochet a tiny sweater to help her stay warm.

OHS staffer Selene Mejia had no idea that her sweater would turn Silky into an Internet sensation. Photos of the tiny hamster (weight: four ounces) wearing the snuggly sweater may have briefly dislodged cat videos as the Internet's most popular animal attraction.

Silky came to attention of her new adopter when he saw her picture on the BBC World News website. Portland resident Matthew Sears contacted OHS and discovered Silky had just been put up for adoption after being treated for a minor eye infection.

Sears reports that Silky is getting along wonderfully in her new home and that she is "super outgoing." The hairless condition, by the way, is caused by a rare genetic trait and is not a medical condition.

Full disclosure: Silky wore her sweater at OHS only for special occasions, as her living quarters were warm enough to keep her comfortable. Her new owner received the sweater as part of a care package included with the adoption.

**ONLINE:** More photos of Silky at [oregonhumane.org/hairless-hamster-tiny-sweater](http://oregonhumane.org/hairless-hamster-tiny-sweater). 📺

News casters from KATU join Sharon Harmon from OHS for the 17th annual Telethon. Left to right: Craig Birnbach, Sharon Harmon, Steve Dunn, Deb Knapp, Dave Salesky.

OREGON HUMANE SOCIETY

## OHS Telethon: Live Broadcast Sets Record

Broadcast live from OHS and the studios of KATU, the annual OHS Telethon took to the airwaves on October 6 and raised a record \$488,000 for pets. The funds donated far exceeded the \$400,000 goal and were the most raised in the 17-year history of the Telethon.

This year's telethon featured a new hour-long program broadcast live from OHS in the afternoon. Like last year, viewers were also treated to an hour-long morning show from OHS and live appearances by OHS

staff on KATU news programs throughout the day. The Telethon gave audiences a first-hand look at how OHS saves the lives of pets and treated viewers to countless close-ups of puppies and kittens looking for new homes.

"We can't thank enough all the individuals and companies that made Telethon donations," said OHS Executive Director Sharon Harmon. "The response was phenomenal."

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## DOGS RESCUED FROM SUSPECTED DRUG HOUSE

An OHS investigations team rescued 17 dogs from a suspected drug house that was the target of a raid last month by the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office. Deputies from the Sheriff's Office reported finding large amounts of dog feces and urine in the areas where animals lived and played.

### POSSIBLE BREEDING OPERATION

A six-person OHS investigations team removed 14 puppies and three adult dogs from the house on the 16400 block of S. Harding Road in Oregon City. All the rescued animals were transported to OHS where they are now being held as evidence in a criminal case.

OHS veterinarians will examine the dogs and provide any forensic evidence to Clackamas County authorities. The dogs are not available for adoption at this time, as they are part of the Clackamas County criminal case.

The animals may have been part of a breeding operation involving dozens of puppies and other dogs of various ages and breeds, said deputies. Breeds found on the scene included what appeared to be both black and yellow Labrador retrievers, German shepherds, Chihuahuas and Cavalier King Charles spaniels.

Deputies arrested four individuals and seized over \$7,000 in cash and approximately 100,000 tramadol opioid pills. Clackamas County Code Enforcement is conducting an investigation into the living conditions on the property. Clackamas County Dog Services was also on the scene and is assisting with the investigation.

"OHS was glad to be a part of this multi-agency effort," said Sharon Harmon, OHS executive director. "Our investigators were able to quickly deploy when Clackamas County discovered the conditions these animals were living in," said Harmon.

**ONLINE:** See photos and video of the rescue at [oregonhumane.org/clackamasrescue16/](http://oregonhumane.org/clackamasrescue16/).



Dak made a long journey to find a new home.

## HURRICANE MATTHEW SWAMPS SHELTERS: Helping Pets One Puppy at a Time

Hurricane Matthew left a path of destruction in its wake, including 28 fatalities in North Carolina and the worst flooding the state has seen in 17 years. Countless pets were also stranded and local shelters overwhelmed by an influx of animals. As in past natural disasters, the ASPCA's emergency response program called on highly trained OHS volunteers to help care for animals.

OHS volunteer Stacy Rust responded to that call and spent a week in North Carolina as a member of an emergency team working at a shelter in the southeastern part of the state. One animal made a particular impression on Rust: a black Labrador puppy named Dak. He had been found in a ditch during the storm.

### UNCLAIMED PETS

Rust got to know Dak well, playing with him every day inside the emergency trailer where he and a handful of other very young pets were housed. After a month of waiting, no one had come forward to claim or adopt the puppy. With ASPCA concluding its emergency work, Dak was scheduled to be placed inside a county animal shelter with other unclaimed pets in need of homes.

Rust had a better idea. "I asked if I could bring him here, to Oregon, to adopt him through OHS. I hated to think of a puppy spending weeks or months inside a shelter waiting to be adopted." After gaining the needed approvals, Dak and Rust were soon flying back to Portland. Rust herself paid the extra fee to bring Dak on board the plane, where he travelled in a crate underneath her seat.

A few hours after Dak was made available for adoption at OHS, the puppy was off to a new home with a loving family. "He was a really sweet dog who had been through a lot," said Rust. "I'm so happy he could get a new start in life." ☺

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# Robbie's Road Back

A key to helping Robbie was another dog: Wrigley.



## ROBBIE WITHDRAWS IN FEAR: CAN OHS TEACH HIM TO TRUST?

By Jennifer Shirley, OHS Training and Behavior Assistant

Robbie was a nine-and-a-half pound Chihuahua mix who arrived at OHS on May 31. Long, lanky and terrified, he came from an overcrowded shelter with far too few adopters.

I first met Robbie the morning after his arrival when a colleague carried him into the training and behavior office. She had him carefully wrapped within the safety of a blanket; he was too scared to walk. He wouldn't even stand if people were close by.

At OHS, trainers work with dogs and cats who suffer from a fear of people and new places. We'll never know what originally caused Robbie's fear, so we focused on how to help him learn to trust one person at a time. Our goal is to help each animal adjust to their temporary lodgings at OHS and ultimately to a new life in a home. For Robbie, we began by bringing him into the training and behavior office every day. This allowed him to slowly adapt to the sound of our voices and movements while still feeling safe, tucked away under my desk on a comfy bed.

### TOO SCARED TO MOVE

Every day I carried Robbie outside (he was too fearful to walk on a leash), where he curled up in a clenched mound of fur, exactly where I placed him. He wouldn't walk or move an inch. This new world was too overwhelming for him! Over time he started to walk a tiny bit, maybe two or three feet. About two weeks after his arrival he finally started to walk on a leash. After a month he urinated outside, in my presence, for the first time—this was worth celebrating!

Another major breakthrough came when we introduced Robbie to Wrigley, also a formerly fearful Chihuahua. Robbie

and Wrigley were like Mutt and Jeff: Robbie with long, lean limbs and Wrigley more short and stout. They soon became inseparable.

We began by taking the two dogs into Manners Hall, a large indoor play area at OHS. Inside this new space, Robbie felt lost at first and too fearful to even accept his favorite doggie snack. But he learned by watching Wrigley that Manners Hall was a safe and fun place to be a dog! By the fourth day in Manners Hall, Robbie was doing everything that Wrigley was doing. The two dogs raced around the room, played with toys and enjoyed treats. This was a huge accomplishment for Robbie—he had moved beyond the scared, fearful dog he had been.

### NEW ROOMMATE

Unfortunately, when Wrigley got adopted Robbie became a bit lost and briefly reverted to shaking if approached. We tried several different kennel mates after Wrigley, and while they all had a good influence on Robbie, none could compare to his BFF, Wrigley.

Eventually, all the work we invested to help Robbie overcome his fears paid off. Almost exactly two months after his arrival at OHS, Robbie was adopted into a loving home. He now shares a couch, toys and a family of people with his new canine sister, Bella. When I think back to the dog Robbie was when he first arrived and the amazing home he's in now, it's hard for me to believe how much progress he made. Robbie also taught me something—our staff can and do make a difference every day in changing the lives of pets.

**ONLINE:** Watch Robbie and Wrigley playing together in Manners Hall, [bit.ly/robbie-wrigley](http://bit.ly/robbie-wrigley).

1



# The Whole Kitty and Kaboodle

## MARATHON SPAY DAY AT OHS

2



Hundreds of low-income families who love their cats got good news this September when their cats benefited from free spay/neuter surgeries at OHS. The annual Kitty & Kaboodle event is part of a region-wide effort to reduce pet overpopulation by helping people who can't afford surgery for their pets.

Pet owners were encouraged to bring every cat in their household to OHS on September 20, where the "whole kitty and kaboodle" would be spayed or neutered at no charge. The result: 262 cats were altered in one day. The marathon day was made possible by a 24-person OHS medical team assisted by 30 volunteers and 10 employees from other departments.

3



Since it began in 2010, the metro-wide Spay & Save program has made huge inroads into cat overpopulation. Members of the Animal Shelter Alliance of Portland have altered more than 70,000 cats, with about half of the surgeries performed at the OHS Holman Medical Center. Surgeries take place throughout the year. For more information about the program, visit [www.asapmetro.org](http://www.asapmetro.org), or call (503) 802-6755.

PHOTOS by CLSmith Photography.

1. Volunteer Joanne Hodgdon readies a vaccine. Volunteers are an invaluable resource for the OHS hospital.
2. Clients drop off their cats at OHS.
3. Oregon State University veterinary student Teri Shil selects the next cat for surgery. Veterinary students complete a three-week rotation at OHS under the supervision of an OSU faculty member.
4. With an experienced surgeon and medical team, cats spend just five to ten minutes on the operating table.

7



6



5



5. Volunteer Chris Needham prepares one of the 262 surgical packs used that day. Each pack contains the sterilized instruments a surgeon will need for a procedure.
6. Volunteer Lori McDonough works in the recovery area, helping a cat come out of anesthesia.
7. After recovering from surgery, each cat goes home with a new fleece blanket, courtesy of an OHS volunteer sewing group.

## PROTECTING ANIMALS:

# Justice for Bella

By John Hopkinson, OHS Investigations Program Assistant

**On an average Saturday, around 700 people walk through the doors at OHS to meet pets for adoption. However, most people do not realize that many of the available animals come from abuse and neglect cases investigated by OHS.**

During my student internship with the OHS Investigations Department, I had an opportunity to partake in investigations and observe the roles that police officers, veterinarians and attorneys play in prosecuting animal crimes and improving the lives of animals.

As part of the investigations team, for example, I assisted in search warrant executions, collected evidence and worked with prosecutors to hold guilty parties accountable. My internship lasted for one year, from May 2015 to May 2016. I have since stayed on at OHS as the Investigations Program Assistant, after graduating with my Juris Doctor from Lewis & Clark Law School.

The most rewarding aspect my internship was observing how OHS improves the lives of animal victims. I will never forget one survivor: a small, one-year-old tabby cat named Bella.

In August 2015, a young woman reported to OHS that she believed her roommate had caused serious injury to his cat. She reported that she heard her roommate slam something into the shared wall between their rooms. She also witnessed her roommate violently beating a carrier containing the cat. The witness begged her roommate to take Bella to the vet, but he refused.

OHS Humane Special Agent Ulli Neitch responded to the report of animal cruelty and observed Bella firsthand. She could tell that Bella's injuries required immediate care and took her into



John Hopkinson, OHS Investigations Program Assistant, with Baxter, a dog helped by the OHS Investigations team.

protective custody. Back at OHS, x-rays revealed a broken tooth and fractured ribs that had punctured a lung. The OHS veterinarian determined that these painful injuries were the result of blunt force trauma.

Bella was surrendered to OHS by her owner and spent two weeks under medical supervision until she was healed. In the meantime, Special Agent Neitch served a search warrant at the suspect's apartment. A forensic technician and I entered the apartment and collected evidence. After the search warrant was executed, I assembled photographs, legal documents and OHS staff reports into a case packet for the district attorney.

Due in part to the thoroughness of our team's investigation, the suspect pled guilty to Animal Abuse in the First Degree and was sentenced to five days in jail and probation for two years. The sentence also included anger management counseling and a ban on possessing domestic animals for five years.

Bella's case exemplifies how OHS works to improve the lives of animals. The Investigations Department removed Bella from her abusive situation and brought her abuser to justice. The medical team rehabilitated Bella and the adoptions team prepared her to find a new home. Being a part of that process was by far the most rewarding experience of my legal education.

And if you are wondering what happened to Bella, once she became available for adoption, she went home with a new family within one day.

### MORE RESOURCES & INFORMATION

OHS Humane Special Agents are commissioned by the Oregon State Police and have full police power to enforce animal cruelty and neglect laws throughout the state. They receive no tax dollars and are entirely supported through donations to OHS. ©

# Home for the Holidays

PETS SEEK HOMES FOR THE NEW YEAR

## There's no place like home

especially during the holidays. At OHS, pets are cared for by an extended family of staff and volunteers, but even the coziest shelter kennel is no substitute for the comfort of a real home.

OHS looks at all the pets available for adoption on Dec. 1 and sets a goal of getting each one adopted by Dec. 31.

This date is not a deadline, of course. There is never a time limit on how long a pet stays at OHS. While most pets stay at the shelter for only a week or two, some need more time to find an ideal match.

A young and active German shepherd mix named Griffey, for example, has been looking for a home since he came to OHS in September. Griffey has lots of energy and will be a great companion for an active person. If cats with personality are more your style, Kathryn Hepburn has been awaiting her match since July. Kathryn is affectionate, curious and would like to be the star in her future home.

To help these pets find their homes by the new year, the lobby at OHS will feature a display that includes a photo of every single dog, cat, rabbit, rodent and bird who has been at the shelter since Dec. 1



## Moria

PHOTO BY OHS

This big, beautiful bunny is **Moria**, a one-year-old New Zealand rabbit. She is a curious, fun and sassy rabbit who enjoys attention and a nice ear rub. Moria is looking for an indoors-only, rabbit-loving home. *Seeking a home since August.*



PHOTO BY OHS

## Griffey

If you like action and adventure, **Griffey** might be the dog for you! He's a three-year-old German shepherd mix with boundless energy. He's a smart boy who'd like to continue training and learning new tricks. Griffey is a great running and hiking partner—a fantastic fit for the person with an active lifestyle looking to include a canine companion. *Seeking a home since September.*

## Kathryn Hepburn

**Kathryn** is a friendly, affectionate cat with plenty of purrsonality. Ms. Hepburn knows she's a star and enjoys being treated as such. She might prefer not to share the spotlight with another cat in her new home. Kathryn is 12 years old and still spry—she does have feline diabetes and comes with a free Banfield Pet Hospital Optimum Wellness Plan (a healthcare package that includes wellness exams, vaccines and more). *Seeking a home since July.*



PHOTO BY LAURA HINRICHS



## Maggie

PHOTO BY LAURA HINRICHS

Love big, friendly dogs? **Maggie** is a social, happy blue heeler mix who loves to fetch and play. She is eight years young and has traveled all over the world. She's ready to settle in with you and be your best (and only) canine friend. Maggie is deaf, but she doesn't let that slow her down. This goofy, playful girl is sure to brighten your winter days and beyond. *Seeking a home since August.*



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Santos and OHS Volunteer Tim Hurtley



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### How Santos charmed a new friend.

Tim Hurtley is one of the Oregon Humane Society's faithful volunteers. A self-described dog lover, Tim enjoys walking dogs twice a week. But during a stint at the PetSmart Cascade Station, Mr. Hurtley was captivated by a different furry friend.

Santos had been hanging around a little longer than some of the other animals. Tim took note of Santos because, as he says, "I like an animal with personality." Together they spent many days playing with toys and giving head bumps.

Santos found his Forever Home. But not without filling a special place in Tim's heart. Volunteers are the lifeblood of OHS. Every day they help our furry friends in a variety of ways. From walking dogs to managing databases. They do it with love. And what they get back is immeasurable.

# OREGON, THE BEST PLACE TO BE A PET

## LOVE TO THE RESCUE

Animal compassion begins with Officer Wallace, who serves as a Humane Special Agent for the state of Oregon. He and the rest of the team investigate thousands of abuse and neglect reports each year. These highly trained officers crisscross the state to find justice for animals.

They also help pet owners who may not have enough resources. They'll tell the down-on-his-luck farmer about the hay bank so that his horse will have plenty to eat. They'll talk to a dog owner about the importance of shade, water, and shelter—and then mention the weekly food bank down the street.

## CARING FOR BODY AND SOUL

OHS partners with Oregon State University's College of Veterinary Medicine where students learn about the physiology of animals and the relationship between a pet and its owner. They learn the unique needs of low-income pet owners, the factors that cause people to give their pets up, and how to spot abuse and neglect. They care for the animals and their companions.

Take the case of Milagro the Miracle Kitty, who was found cold, starving, and seemingly dead in a storage unit. Dr. Kris Otteman, however, saw the life in him and spent months nursing and loving him back to health.

After his rescue, Milagro spent his evenings snuggled in the lap of his owner Joanne, safe and warm in his Forever Home.

## A RISING TIDE OF LOVE

When you get right down to it, the reason that Oregon is the best place for pets is that Oregonians love and honor animals.

It's working with state legislators to pass laws that reflect that belief. It's teaching veterinarians who can bring that to every animal—and person—they encounter. It's the person who cares enough to notice that a dog down the street looks a little too thin, a little too sick—and picks up the phone to call the OHS Investigations hotline.

They all form an interconnecting web of love, each one of them, and you do, too. Thank you, Oregonians, from the pets and people of the Oregon Humane Society.

[oregonhumane.org](http://oregonhumane.org)

## MORE THAN ADOPTIONS

- Animal Rescue
- Cruelty Investigations
- Behavior Training
- Veterinary Care
- Statewide Advocacy

## DONATING A VEHICLE?

# Here's How to Drive a Good Deal for Pets



Marsha Chrest, director of the Auto for Animals program, with her dog, Maggie.

If you are thinking of donating your vehicle to charity, Marsha Chrest of OHS can give you plenty of reasons to take advantage of the Autos for Animals program. The idea of the program is simple: Donors qualify for a tax deduction when their vehicle is sold at auction, while OHS gets a check from the proceeds of the sale. Over the last ten years, Marsha, OHS Associate Director of Development Programs, has worked hard to make the program the best of its kind. If you are considering donating your vehicle, you'll want to read this interview with her.

### Aren't all vehicle donation programs the same? Why should I donate to OHS instead of another charity I support?

Not all auto donation programs are created equal. One big difference is how much of the vehicle's sale price goes to the charity. At OHS, we get 90% of the vehicle's sale price, which may be the highest percentage in Oregon. We work closely with Sergeants Towing, which picks up vehicles and gets them ready for auction at no charge to OHS. There are no hidden fees or calculations about "net" sale price after the auction is over—the animals get 90% of the sale price, period. Few charities can match that.

### How do I know OHS will get the best price for my vehicle?

Most vehicles donated to OHS go to a public auction where anyone and everyone can bid. We avoid dealer-only auctions, which are sometimes used by other groups. From my experience, public auctions get the highest prices, which means that donors get the highest tax deduction.

### How easy is it to donate my vehicle? I don't like paperwork!

We make it as fast and simple as possible. You can go online and complete the donation form at [oregonhumane.org/auto](http://oregonhumane.org/auto), or call and talk directly with us at (503) 416-7079. You can even do a "drop and dash" where you drive your vehicle to OHS and leave the title and keys at the main lobby desk.

### It's not easy for me to come to OHS. Can you pick up my vehicle?

Convenience is something you want to consider when donating your vehicle. We will pick up your vehicle at your home or workplace at a time that's best for you. Sergeants Towing, the company we work with, picks up vehicles on weekends and evenings and will call you to schedule a good time. We want to make this as easy as possible!

### I've heard stories about people selling their vehicles and then receiving a ticket because the new owner ran a red light. Can that happen?

It can happen, but this is another place where OHS stands out. We notify the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) as soon as you donate a vehicle. We next physically remove the plates from the vehicle, and then we notify the DMV again once the vehicle is sold. Not everyone takes these steps.

### Would I be better off trading my vehicle in to a dealer or selling it myself?

You might feel better donating your vehicle to the animals rather than getting a surprisingly low trade-in offer from a dealer. Selling your vehicle yourself to a private individual is always possible, but many people don't have the time or inclination to go through the process of getting the vehicle ready for sale and then going on test drives and haggling with people over the price. OHS makes it easy to donate your vehicle, and to help shelter pets at the same time. ☺



## SUPPORTER PROFILE

# Howard Hecht and Cody

By Kristin Anderson

As a child, Howard Hecht wanted a dog so badly that when his parakeet Pepper died, "I figured that if I put up enough fuss, my parents would get me a puppy as consolation," he recounts, smiling. His plan backfired: Howard's parents assumed that he was not emotionally ready for a dog, and so it was only as an adult that he finally got his wish.

Howard's first dog was a sheltie mix from a shelter in Illinois near where he grew up. After he moved to Portland ("I got tired of subzero winters"), Howard adopted his second shelter dog—a border collie named Maggie—from OHS. Maggie's adoption was such a positive experience, Howard says, that he decided to volunteer at OHS. That was in 2000, and he's been helping out ever since. At first, he says, "I did a little dog-walking, and then it quickly morphed into a whole bunch of other roles: the front desk, some IT work, and for a while, I was the person who would take dogs down to the TV station for their adoption segment."

After Maggie died, Howard found Cody, another border collie, from a rescue operation in Corvallis. Cody had likely been living with a homeless man and was clearly scarred from his experiences on the streets. "Every other dog and human were suspect to him," Howard explains, "and because he may have lived in a car, it was very hard to convince him it was ok to get out of one." Rehabilitating Cody took several years, Howard says, and OHS staff helped guide him through that process. "I think the important thing is to really understand as best you can what the needs of the animal are. And above all, you have to have a ton of patience."

Experiences like these deepened Howard's appreciation for the work of OHS, and over the years, he increased his involvement accordingly. He joined the steering committee for the Thomas Lamb Eliot Circle, helping to direct its vision and launch. "There are a lot of different ways the Circle brings value to the organization," Howard explains. "The shelter doesn't run entirely on love of animals: most of its funds come from private donations, and TLC members are ambassadors for the Oregon Humane Society's work."

Howard has also helped lead the New Road Ahead initiative, an OHS research project to assess continued and new areas of need.



Howard Hecht and Cody

"In the past, the main problem was controlling pet population, but now problems are often the result of poverty or behavioral issues or cruelty," says Howard.

Personally, Howard has several services he would like to see OHS expand in future years: veterinary training facilities, animal cruelty prevention and treatment capacity, and veterinary services for low-income pet owners. For all of these reasons, Howard donates money to OHS as well as his time. He trusts in its mission, he says: "They ensure that animals are treated in an appropriate and humane way, and they work within our system and society to make fundamental changes in how we view animals." He also trusts in management of OHS, he adds. "When I donate, I give to the general fund. I have faith that they'll send it to the place it'll do the most good."

But, Howard adds, there is another, less obvious reason why he gives to OHS. "By taking care of animals, we're taking care of people," he says. "Think about how many human lives have been changed for the better by adopting a pet—that's one of the most beautiful side effects of what OHS does." ☺

## TLC Business Partners

The following businesses have made significant financial contributions (\$2,500+) to OHS and/or in-kind donations from August 1, 2016 through November 1, 2016. A complete list of TLC Business Partners can be found online at [oregonhumane.org/get-involved/support-our-partners](http://oregonhumane.org/get-involved/support-our-partners).

### New members in bold

\* Indicates companies or groups who have held community fundraising events to benefit OHS.

### DIAMOND

Google Ad Grants  
iHeart Media-Portland  
Leopold Ketel & Partners

### PLATINUM

Blue Buffalo Company  
Clear Channel Outdoor  
Elanco Animal Health  
Fred Meyer  
Graphic Print Solutions  
KATU Television  
Mud Bay, Inc.  
NW Naturals, Inc.  
Oregon City Subaru  
Sergeants Towing, Inc.  
Wentworth ChevyTown and SubaruCity  
Willamette Week

### GOLD

Intel  
Morasch Meats, Inc.  
Northwest EMC, Inc.  
Oregon Public Broadcasting  
Portland General Electric  
Subaru of America

The Standard  
U.S. Bank

### SILVER

1859 Magazine  
A Pet Loft, Inc.  
**Alliant Systems**  
Avangrid Renewables  
Baird  
Beaverton Toyota-Scion  
**Boly:Welch**  
Cambia Health Solutions  
Columbia Bank  
Columbia Sportswear Company  
**Environmental Controls Corp.**  
Fore The Animals Foundation  
Hallmark Inns and Resorts, Inc.  
Happy Brain Science  
Harvest Fresh Grocery & Deli  
Kia of Portland  
Lynde Paul/Corgi Walk in the Pearl\*  
Maid Brigade of Portland  
**Margulis Jewelers**  
Miller Nash LLP  
Moda Health  
**Motivation Design – Kurgo Products**

Nike  
Pamplin Media  
PEMCO Insurance Agency  
Portland General Electric  
Petco/Petco Foundation  
Portland Monthly Magazine  
Portland's CW  
Ron Rothert Insurance  
Rover.com  
Skies America Publishing Company  
The Winged M  
Thede Culpepper Moore  
Munro Silliman LLC  
Tito's Handmade Vodka  
W.W. Grainger  
VCA Animal Hospitals

### BRONZE

Alpha Broadcasting  
Autodesk  
Banfield Pet Hospital  
**Cascadian Fabrications, Inc.**  
Castaway Portland  
Cooper Mountain Kennel LLC  
**Costco Wholesale**  
Defteling Design  
**Dog Gone Happy**  
Dogs Gone Swimming  
Wellness Center LLC

### Green Pet Compost Company

Honl Tree Care  
**IDEXX Laboratories**  
J. Thayer Company  
Kinco International  
**KPFF Consulting Engineers**  
Les Schwab Tire Centers  
MillerCoors LLC  
Morel Ink  
Specialty Vet Care  
Pacific Power Foundation  
PetPlan Pet Insurance  
PetSmart  
Providence Health & Services  
ResQ Animal Massage  
Southern Wine & Spirits  
Subie Events LLC  
Sunnyside Little Chapel of the Chimes/Cool Dog Nights\*  
Tanasbourne Veterinary LLC  
Terry Morrison/Stifel  
Thrive Acupuncture  
Veris Industries  
Waste Management of Oregon  
**Windermere Community Realty\***



PHOTO BY LAURA HINRICHS

# HAPPY tails

Finding homes for animals is one of the most important things we do at the Oregon Humane Society. When adopters keep in touch, their stories and photos inspire us.



## Maddie



Hello! We adopted Maggie Grace recently and she has already settled in. She is even okay around our cats, though we are still taking it slow. Maggie (now named Maddie) is a wonder of a

canine. Her first night home, she went straight into her crate and was fine all night. We thank you for introducing her to us. She is already a member of the family.

Best, Josh and Ellie

**WE LOVE TO HEAR** how animals adopted from OHS are doing. Send your letters, stories, emails and photos to: Editor, OHS, 1067 NE Columbia Blvd. Portland OR 97211; [OHS@oregonhumane.org](mailto:OHS@oregonhumane.org).

## Abigail

Dear OHS,

We adopted Abigail, a Walker coon hound, in 2004 from OHS when she was just two-and-a-half years old. She's slowing down but still brings us much joy. We will be forever grateful for her.

Thank you, Greg and Jeanette



## Did you know...

- » There is never a time limit on how long animals remain available for adoption at OHS.
- » You can see every animal available for adoption on our website at [oregonhumane.org](http://oregonhumane.org).
- » OHS save rates are among the highest in the nation: 98% for all pets in 2015.
- » Adoptions include an ID microchip, initial vaccines, a courtesy veterinary exam, one month of free pet health insurance and plenty of post-adoption support. Every animal is also spayed or neutered before being adopted.

## Pivo

Hi there,

We just wanted to let you know how well Pivo (the cat formerly known as Rafter) is doing. He was pretty scared when he first got home, but within a couple of days he came out of his hiding space. He is a snuggling, purring, and playful little guy. He loves his new home and is happy to have a great family. Thanks for connecting us with the best cat ever.

Have a good day, Hannah and Kai



## Jersey

Dear OHS,

I just wanted to give an update about our recently adopted cat, Jersey. He was a longtime resident at OHS, nearly six months. He's settled into his home with us perfectly! He is so affectionate, friendly, and fun. I'm pretty sure my daughter is his special person. Thank you so much for this fantastic boy! We truly couldn't love Jersey more, he was meant to be.

Thank you, Trisha



## Friends Forever™ One Year Later: Mac & Wylie

By Gary Kish, OHS Vice President of Development

Patricia Iron\* was only 62 when she decided to make a plan for her large, loveable dogs, Mac and Wylie. While Patricia had worked for a different animal welfare organization, she was familiar with the OHS Friends Forever™ program, which guarantees the care of pets who survive their owner. Patricia was confident that Friends Forever would take good care of her boys.

Patricia included OHS in her will with specific instructions that should she become incapacitated, or when she died, she wanted Mac and Wylie to come to OHS.

When Patricia died in November of 2015, her personal representative, Brian Downs, contacted OHS and made arrangements for her boys to come to the shelter. The gentle giants each had many admirers, but Patricia wanted them to be adopted together as a bonded pair.

Together, Mac and Wylie weighed over 180 pounds, so finding the right match for them took a little longer than the average OHS stay of one week. To help the dogs find a great match, OHS staff and volunteers made a video for their online profiles, which can be viewed at [oregonhumane.org/macwylie](http://oregonhumane.org/macwylie).

On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Mandy Weaver visited OHS looking for a puppy. "I played with a puppy first, but ended up adopting an eight- and a 12-year-old," Mandy laughingly recounts. The medical history that came with them indicated typical

ailments of older, large-breed dogs. "Mac came with a number of joint problems and daily medication," said Mandy, "and Wylie was receiving treatments for senior stiffness and pain." Mandy's boyfriend, Dennis Lynch, wasn't too sure about the match, but within one day, Mac and Wylie were lounging on the couch with the resident cat. "I'm so happy we found them!" says Mandy.

Wylie quickly taught them that he was well named, as he was wily and beguiling. "He had a huge personality," said Mandy. He was an old man stuck in his ways: he didn't like men on bikes or small white cars. Wylie also was a water dog and loved to swim in any weather.

"Being that he was 12 when we adopted him, we knew he wouldn't be with us long-term, so we gave him as good a life as we possibly could," said Mandy. Even on his last day of life, Mandy and Dennis helped Wylie hobble to the river so he could do what he loved the most—go for a swim.

In the 22 years since Friends Forever was founded, hundreds of individuals have made a plan for their pets. "The program provides peace of mind that OHS stands ready to find carefully-matched, loving homes for pets," said Gary Kish, OHS Vice President of Development.

To learn more about Friends Forever and ensuring the future care of your pet, visit OHS online at [oregonhumane.org](http://oregonhumane.org) or



*"We are so happy to have found these two wonderful dogs. Mac and Wylie have brought a lot of joy and laughter into our home. We had a lot of people tell us we were crazy adopting eight- and twelve-year-old dogs, but we'd do it again in a heartbeat."*

—Mandy Weaver and Dennis Lynch

contact Kathryn Karr at (503) 802-6743, [kathryn@oregonhumane.org](mailto:kathryn@oregonhumane.org). OHS also offers 30-minute presentations about Friends Forever, suitable for individuals and small groups.

*\*Patricia's personal representative said Patricia proudly supported OHS and wanted other people to know about the importance of including pets in their estate planning process.*