



OCHS

Oregon Coast Humane Society

Newsletter

Winter 2024



Stevie now living his best life!

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Manny Flores
Jeremiah Gaches
Amy Godwin
Cara Thiergartner

What's Inside

Gala Photos

Staff Spotlight

Volunteer Spotlight

Business Spotlight

Happy Tails

From the Executive Director

Hello, OCHS Friends and Family!

Am I the only one who's still basking in the glow of our Inaugural Wags & Whiskers Gala? This year was our first attempt at a fancy fundraising event since I joined OCHS, and the Black Cat Ball theme did not disappoint! It was a delight to meet so many of our supporters for the first time - those monthly donors whose thank-you notes I've been signing for three years finally had a face behind their gift! The outpouring of support was beyond inspiring. Let's do it again next year, shall we?

The Black Cat Ball was possible thanks to our incredible chairs, Angi Fowles and Diane Swart. They spent thousands of hours preparing decorations, wrangling sponsors and gifts, and supporting our committee to pull together such an incredible event. Special thanks, too, to Valerie Swensrud – our OCHS Community Outreach Coordinator. She continues to elevate our organization one community event at a time. To all the volunteers, sponsors, donors, and attendees please accept my thanks for a job well done.

One of the best parts of this job is getting to know your stories – the animals that inspire you to support our work and that of our legendary predecessors who carved the trail (literally and figuratively) for us to continue this work for more than 30 years. If we haven't already connected so you can tell me about your childhood pets or family members who instilled your love of all things furry, let's get together! It reminds me how lucky I am to be here doing this work with people like you.

Here at OCHS, we find ourselves inventing ways to network and place our animals. I'm especially proud of our Animal Welfare Committee and OCHS Animal Care Team who have begun training our long-term dogs for their Canine Good Citizen Certifications. This increases each dog's chances of finding and staying in an adoptive home. At a time when large dogs are waiting longer and longer in shelters nationwide, our team's efforts to give shelter dogs new skills shows their commitment to each animal in our care.

Finally, four paws of thanks to each of you. Your support - whether financial, emotional, physical, or social – makes all the difference. We are your hometown shelter and proud to do this work thanks to your support. I'm looking forward to growing our organization to help even more animals through your generosity. Thanks for joining us on this lifesaving adventure!

With gratitude,



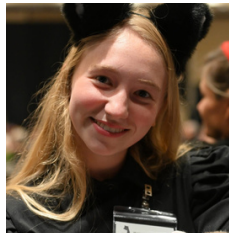
Elizabeth Thompson
Executive Director



Moxie has been at the shelter since January 2024.

Photos From the Black Cat Ball





We look forward to seeing you
September 2025.

From the President

Dear OCHS Friends,

I am constantly inspired by the ways our community comes together to help the animals. This was certainly in evidence at our inaugural Black Cat Ball gala, where a sold-out crowd at the Three Rivers Casino enjoyed food, friends, and fun to raise more than \$51,000 for OCHS! Thank you to everyone who helped make the event a night to remember.

Pets connect us in countless ways. At the dog park, casual conversations flow as we admire each other's furry friends. Walking our beloved Lettie, I've had the pleasure of getting to know my neighbors, who pause to give her ear scratches or treats. And at OCHS, people unite in the common cause of helping dogs and cats when they need us the most.

Whether you volunteer, donate, or adopt, you are part of a truly inspiring congregation of caring that transcends human differences to make the world a better place for us all, two-legged and four-legged alike. Thank you for being a part of this uplifting, caring and unifying group. As Elizabeth often reminds us, we are making a difference, four paws at a time.

For the animals,

Mary Henry, Board President

Staff Spotlight - Tyler Delle

Tyler's love for animals started long before she joined our team. Growing up in an animal-forward family, Tyler participated in 4-H and loved anything to do with animals. If you've seen Tyler walking her three dogs down Bay Street, you'll understand why we say her talent is exceptional. Whether she's walking her own dogs or shelter dogs, Tyler makes it look easy while also having fun.

Tyler has been at OCHS for three years and works primarily with our dogs. However, she's also the first one to jump in to help with cats or kittens when needed. She can handle even the most difficult and frightened animals safely and humanely. When a community member calls about a frightened dog needing help, Tyler jumps into action – whether she's working or not. She's helped trap lost dogs and cats, transported community animals to the emergency vet in Springfield, and delivered pet food to homeless camps in Florence. Tyler recently became a Canine Good Citizen Evaluator, too. Her passion to help is unmatched and we are honored to have Tyler in the OCHS family.



Volunteer Spotlight - Deborah Larson



When it comes to promoting shelter pets, Deborah Larson is one of the best. She's a volunteer photographer who captures each animal's spirit through her lens. Her photographs are used on our website and shared extensively through Facebook to help find homes for shelter dogs and cats. Deborah also attends OCHS events to capture special moments.

Aside from photography, Deborah leads a Blessing of the Animals at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship each year featuring adoptable OCHS pets. She's a regular donor and advocates for our animals in the community in more ways than we can list. Thanks to Deborah, our animals are shown in their best light!

Volunteers are at the heart of all that OCHS accomplishes, whether with the animals or behind the scenes. To find out how you can help, please contact OCHS via email: info@oregoncoasthumanesociety.org or phone (541) 997-4277.

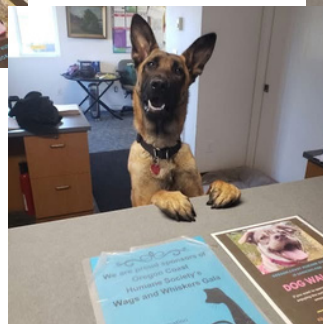
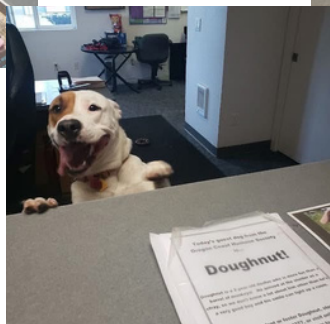
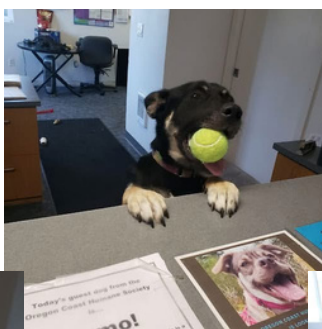
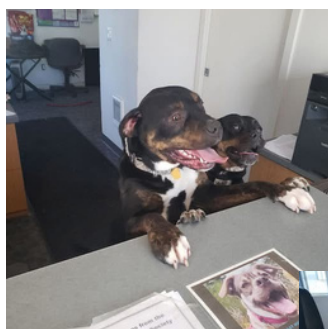
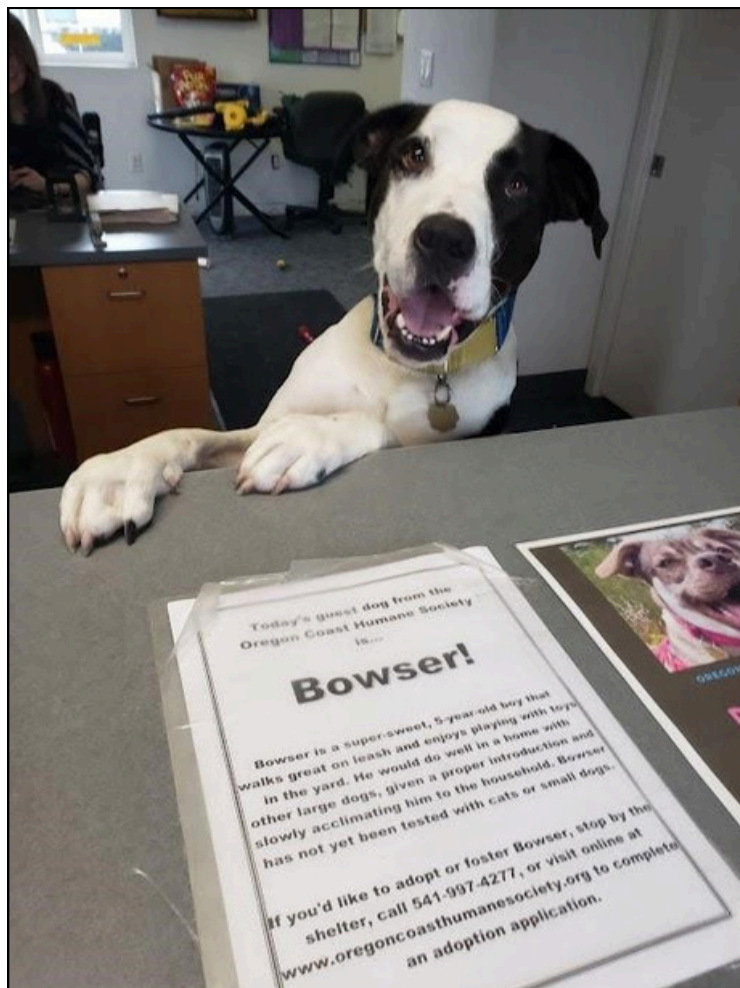
Business Spotlight - 101 Mini Storage

Several years ago, we received a call from 101 Mini Storage asking if they could host a shelter dog at their business. Little did we know that they'd pick the biggest, strongest dogs to take to "work."

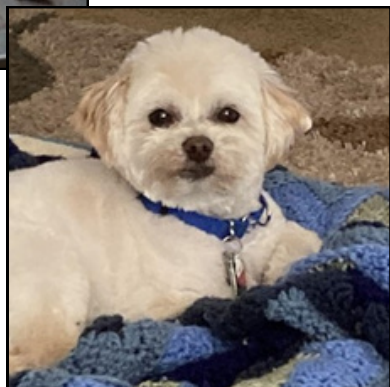
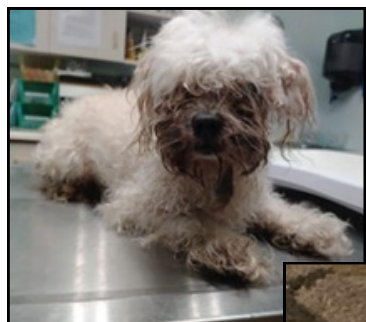
Dogs at 101 Mini Storage learn new skills about being in a "home," and that helps them become more adoptable and confident. Each dog has their bio on the counter, and they're promoted on the 101 Mini Storage Facebook page, so visitors know who's working each day.

Joe and Marie have made such a difference for so many OCHS dogs over the years, including the ones they adopted from OCHS before beginning their "working dog" program. When we were preparing for our Wags & Whiskers Gala, they even donated a storage unit for us to stage the auction items!

We are so grateful for our partnership with 101 Mini Storage and all the ways they support our shelter pets!



Happy Tails: Stevie, Herman and Isabella



When Stevie arrived at the shelter, he was in RUFF shape. It seemed that he had been on his own for quite some time before he was discovered on an abandoned logging road. Despite his lack of care, Stevie was thrilled to meet new people – even when they were poking and prodding him. After a dental and a neuter, Stevie found himself a perfect mom. He's become a Florence celebrity and can regularly be seen greeting strangers on the boardwalk or visiting businesses on Bay Street during his daily walk. Stevie's resiliency reminds us that we can overcome hardships and shine, and that we are more beautiful when we are loved.



Herman and Isabella arrived at the shelter as strays from different locations in Lane County. When a cat-savvy adopter started visiting the shelter to choose two new pets, he thought he saw a potential spark between the two. Little did we know that it would turn out to be a love affair for the ages. Herman was scrawny with a rough coat and Isabella needed to gain weight. After nine months in their new home, these two are inseparable. They travel between Eugene and Florence and have the most adoring dad that any four-legged kid could enjoy. We get weekly photos of the pair, and they never fail to make our day. How lucky we are to have such PAWSOME adopters in our shelter family!

"Until one has loved an animal , a part of one's soul remains unawakened."
Anatole France



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