OCHS
Oregon Coast Humane Society

Love Edition February 2026

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What's Inside

Letter from the Director & President

Staff Spotlight

Board Spotlight

Volunteer Spotlight

We Love our Vet

President's Club

Love at first sight

Better Together

Shadow was loved

Upcoming Events

From the Executive Director

Hello, lovely OCHS friends and family,

We're dedicating this newsletter to all things LOVE. Every day, we're inspired by the people and pets around us who show us what love truly looks like. Whether it's a volunteer giving their time to comfort a frightened animal or a pet guardian putting their companion's needs first, we're constantly reminded that there is so much goodness and LOVE in this world.
For me, this work is LOVE in action. A supporter recently shared that what we're building at OCHS is a legacy that will far outlast any one of us. His words stayed with me and reminded me what an honor it is to do this work alongside you, serving the animals and people who need us most.
My heart is fullest when I think about my family. My two adult children make me proud every day with their courage, compassion, and willingness to stand up for the underdog (no pun intended). And now, my granddaughter Magnolia has added a whole new kind of joy to my life. Seeing the world through her eyes reminds me why this work matters so much — we're building a kinder future for the next generation, too.
At home, Lola and Buddha, my 12-year-old four-legged partners in crime, keep me grounded. Lola is all energy and adventure, while Buddha prefers long naps and a quiet day. Together, they remind me to balance play with rest and to appreciate the simple moments.
Thank you for loving Oregon Coast Humane Society the way you do. Everything we accomplish is stronger because we do it together. For over 30 years, you've supported animals you may never even meet, simply because you care. How lucky we are that our shared love of fur and wet noses has brought us together on this journey.

With LOVE,
Elizabeth Thompson

Executive Director

For up to date information about OCHS, check out our website at
https://www.oregoncoasthumanesociety.org/

From the President

There are so many things that make life special to me. My wife of 38 years, our amazing daughter, our wonderful extended family, and our beloved pets bring immeasurable joy to my days. We've been fortunate to share many adventures through travel and friendship, and we treasure the time we spend with the people—and animals—we love most.
While we may not have everything, we are deeply grateful for what we do have: honesty, trust, compassion, and a lasting love for others and our pets. Those values guide how I live my life, and they're the same values that drew me to Oregon Coast Humane Society.
Every day, I'm inspired by the kindness and dedication of this community—staff, volunteers, donors, and fellow animal lovers—who work together to ensure every animal feels safe, cared for, and loved. It's a privilege to serve as Board President of an organization that reflects the very best of who we are.
Thank you for being part of the OCHS family and for helping us create brighter futures for the animals who depend on us.

Joe Zarate,

President

LOVER BOY HARLEY

Harley is one of several large dogs who keep getting overlooked for adoptions. We're hoping to schedule some adoption events in areas outside of Florence where we'll have a larger audience of adopters interested in adding a big lover boy like Harley to their family.

Do you have a location where we can bring dogs to meet families? Contact us if so! In the meantime, please follow our Facebook page and network our dogs with your friends! Social media helps us place so many animals in homes, and followers like YOU can play a huge role.
Thank you!

Staff Spotlight - Natalee Charlton

Natalee joined the OCHS team in 2022 and has been spreading her love for animals ever since. If you've spent time visiting our kittens, chances are Natalee has been there, sharing stories about the mischievous little ones in her care and making everyone smile. Married to her LOVE, Chris, and with a Valentine's Day birthday, she's the PURRFECT team member to spotlight this season! Natalee's passion for learning continues to inspire us all. She's currently pursuing her Certified Veterinary Technician degree, and OCHS is proud to support her as she follows her dreams. Splitting her time between the shelter and our veterinary clinic, Natalee's dedication and growth make her an invaluable part of our team. We're so lucky to have her!

DO WHAT YOU LOVE. LOVE WHAT YOU DO!

Board Member Spotlight - Marchel Demersseman

Marchel joined the Board of Directors at OCHS as an interim member and was elected to a three-year term in 2025. She serves as Board Secretary and chairs the Community Outreach Committee, where she keeps busy planning exciting events — including our upcoming Black Cat Ball on New Year's Eve 2026!
It feels especially fitting that Marchel's birthday falls on Valentine's Day, because she brings so much heart to everything she does. When she's not advocating for animals and strengthening our community, she enjoys life with her husband, Paul, and their beloved OCHS alum dog, Cappy. We're so grateful for her dedication, compassion, and all the ways she helps make the world brighter for animals and people alike.

Volunteer Spotlight - Diane Buleza

Diane is one of our LOVELY cashiers at the Thrift Store. She makes every customer feel welcome while advocating for the animals at OCHS. Her husband Bill volunteers on our Estate Sale Team. Together they are a dynamic duo making a difference for the animals!

Jeanne Smalldon

Jeanne's one of those folks who won't tell you all the ways she's helped OCHS grow over the years, but everyone knows what a difference she makes! Jeanne's currently one of our vet clinic volunteers who takes care of animals after they come out of surgery. Thank DOG for Jeanne!

If you would like to join our PAWSOME volunteer team contact us for more information.
541-997-4277
https://www.oregoncoasthumanesociety.org/volunteer/

Volunteer Spotlight

Adrian Powell

If you've ever wondered how to make the most of retirement, Adrian is a great example. He's an avid gardener who loves spending time with his dogs, Bella and Stella, and his husband, Bryan. When he's not enjoying life at home, Adrian is busy helping OCHS in countless ways.

Adrian works with our most challenging dogs, teaching them important life skills, and mentors new dog walkers, helping them learn the ropes (or leash!). On top of that, he volunteers with our mighty estate sale team. His generosity and compassion are truly inspiring. Thank you, Adrian, for all you do!

LIVE THE LIFE YOU LOVE. LOVE THE LIFE YOU LIVE!

Jill Macfarland

Jill is one of those volunteers who walks into the cattery and somehow every cat comes running. It's not just the tasty treats in her pocket — it's her magical ability to melt the hearts of even the most frightened felines. Thanks to Jill's patience and care, some of our shyest cats are building confidence and finding their way into loving homes. Everyone who works alongside her learns something new with every visit.

A true cat advocate and devoted champion for our shelter pets, Jill shares her love of animals at home with her husband, Todd, and their dog, Ellie. She recently joined the OCHS Board of Directors and is helping fine-tune our volunteer program to better serve the people and pets in our community. Thank you, Jill, for sharing your time, talent, and heart with the OCHS family!

LOVE ISN'T LOVE 'TIL YOU GIVE IT AWAY!

We LOVE our Veterinarian!

If you haven't met Dr. Tamay Guevara yet, what are you waiting for? We are absolutely thrilled to have her as part of the OCHS family! A proud OSU graduate, Dr. Tamay shares her life with her partner, Alex, and a delightful menagerie of pets, including her senior pom, Gordo (pictured on left).
Dr. Tamay does so much more than care for animals—she mentors our team, educates pet guardians, and makes the world a better place with every interaction. This spring, she'll begin hosting OSU veterinary students for their preceptorship, guiding the next generation of veterinary professionals under her leadership. The world—and OCHS—are better with Dr. Tamay!

DOG IS LOVE.

We LOVE our donors!

We are in LOVE with this new table that was donated by Marci Ann Yantz and Olympic Veterinary to honor Marci's father.
The gurney raises and lowers our largest patients safely to help our team transfer them without injury to themselves or the patient.
Donations like this are making our vet clinic equipped for anything, and we are beyond grateful for this gift!

OCHS Senior Medical Team Member Jenny Rankin and Dr. Tamay Guevara showing off the table with its very first patient!

You can find more information about our clinic on our website
www.oregoncoasthumanesociety.org
or Call 541-590-3333 Text 541-305-5577

WE LOVE OUR PRESIDENT'S CLUB MEMBERS!

On January 30th, we welcomed our President's Club members — donors who support OCHS with gifts of $1,000 or more annually — to a special event at the OCHS Veterinary Clinic. Guests enjoyed a tour, wine and snacks, and a Q&A with Dr. Tamay Guevara. When asked what the clinic's "cherry on top" would be, Dr. Tamay shared her wish for laser therapy equipment. Thanks to the generosity of those in attendance, $41,000 was raised to make it happen! The new unit has arrived and will provide non-invasive treatment for wounds, faster surgical recovery, and relief for arthritic animals.

Thank you to our donors who LOVE the animals and help us provide exceptional care!

Scan to Donate

Donations can be made online
https://www.oregoncoasthumanesociety.org/donate-today/
or at
2840 Rhododendron Dr
Florence, OR 97439

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT: DANCYN AND DANNAH

When Dancyn arrived at the Oregon Coast Humane Society, it was clear just how deeply she was loved. Her guardian faced the difficult decision to move out of state for medical reasons and, with a heavy heart, trusted us to help Dancyn find her next chapter.

It didn't take long for that chapter to begin. As soon as Dannah met Dancyn, it was love at first sight. Today, Dancyn is thriving — soaking up affection, settling into her new home, and living her very best life with a family who absolutely adores her. Stories like Dancyn's remind us that while goodbyes can be hard, LOVE always finds its way home.

BETTER TOGETHER!

We truly LOVE the partnerships we share with our fellow community nonprofits. Working alongside Habitat for Humanity, our estate sale team ensures that every home we accept is carefully cleared and ready for the next chapter of its journey — often heading to market for sale.

When heavy lifting is needed or items are too large for our thrift store, Habitat steps in with generous hearts and helping hands. This collaboration is a wonderful example of what happens when organizations come together with a shared love for community. By supporting one another, we've increased our productivity and added even greater value to both of our missions.

SHADOW WAS LOVED

When Shadow arrived at OCHS as a stray, he was nearly bald and struggling with painful, itchy skin. He came to us in need of care — and he received it in abundance. Our veterinary team worked tirelessly to help him heal, and along the way, Shadow showed us his resilient, loving spirit.

Shadow may not have had one family, but he had an entire OCHS family who adored him. He marched in two parades, attended an Ems baseball game, made a radio appearance, and enjoyed countless field trips and adventures. He especially loved his walks with his dear friend Tim, an OCHS dog walker and Board member.

In January, Shadow passed away after a seizure while doing what he loved most — going for a walk. While we miss him deeply, we are so grateful that his days were filled with friendship, adventure, and love. Shadow's life reminds us that what matters most isn't how long we have, but how fully we are loved. And Shadow was loved every single day.

Upcoming Events

- March 7 Volunteer Orientation 1PM at Shelter
- March 13-14 ESTATE SALE - Stay tuned for more info
- March 27-28 ESTATE SALE - Stay tuned for more info
- April 4 Volunteer Celebration @ Woahink Lake Yurt
- May 1 President’s Club Event
- May 17 Rhody Days Parade
- June 4 Business After Hours @ OCHS Thrift Store
- June 24 Eugene Emeralds Game
- August 15 Volunteer and Member Picnic
- September 19 Rubber Duck Round-Up
- December 31 Black Cat Ball @ Florence Events Center

Kitten De-Stressor Event at Siuslaw High School.

Oregon Coast Humane Society
2840 Rhododendron Dr.
Florence, OR 97439

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