OCHS
Oregon Coast Humane Society

Gratitude Edition Fall 2026



Youth Volunteer Mia loves giving puppy snuggles.

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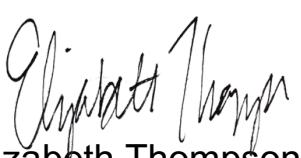
Hello, Friends!

Can you believe it's already time for another newsletter? As we head into the holiday season, we're celebrating all the wonderful things happening for the animals and the people who love them at Oregon Coast Humane Society. Our gratitude for your continued support cannot be overstated. Every day, I'm reminded how lucky we are to do this work alongside you. Our volunteers, donors, foster families, teammates, and supporters inspire me to serve with my whole heart. Thank you for being part of this lifesaving mission!

The OCHS Veterinary Clinic recently celebrated its first year of serving shelter and community animals, and it has truly energized our entire OCHS family. Our clinic volunteers are making an incredible difference, and our donors have been so generous. In this newsletter, you'll find a wish list of items our medical team would love to have, so please reach out if you'd like to sponsor something. The diagnostic capabilities we now have at the clinic are amazing, and I'm incredibly proud of the compassionate care our team provides to every animal who comes through our doors, regardless of their family's ability to pay. I continue to write grants to help ensure funding is available when an animal in crisis needs us. If you enjoy writing grants, we should probably talk!

One of my favorite parts of this job is getting to know my neighbors and their pets. Florence is such a special place, and I feel incredibly lucky to be part of this community. I truly believe OCHS can be anything we dream it can be, and I'm excited about all the possibilities ahead of us. Every day, I see what we can accomplish when people come together for animals, and it makes me even more passionate about what we do. Thank you for believing in OCHS, for cheering us on, and for being part of this journey. I can't wait to see what we do next, and I'm so glad I get to do it with YOU!

All good things,



Elizabeth Thompson



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

From the President

Hello, OCHS Family and Friends!

As the new President of the Oregon Coast Humane Society Board of Directors, I'd like to introduce myself and share what inspires my passion for animals.

My love of animals began with Tina, our beautiful, protective German Shepherd. An energetic escape artist, she jumped fences to follow us or chase the mail carrier. Her protective instincts sometimes led to biting, making her difficult for my young parents to manage while raising three children. They found her a more suitable home, where she attended K-9 training and found a real job. Her story taught me that animal welfare sometimes requires difficult choices made in an animal's best interest.

Growing up, I cared for cats, dogs, mice, rats, and the occasional lizard or fledgling bird. My softhearted mom never turned away a stray or the last kitten in a grocery-store box. Like her, I seemed to attract animals in need.

In San Francisco, I adopted two feral kittens from the SPCA whose euthanasia date was approaching. The spicy, spitty, hissy pair wouldn't let us close enough to choose fitting names, so my roommate called them Mr. Smith and Mr. Jones. Nearly two years passed before they fully trusted me.

Later, while working at a Fortune 500 company, I sought an activity that would bring me joy. Volunteering at an exceptional shelter provided that opportunity, along with training from three animal behavior specialists. For seven years, I focused on helping shy, frightened, and feral adult cats.

Retirement brought a move to Oregon. At OCHS, I found a place to help cats and dogs find loving homes and a close-knit family of staff, volunteers, committee members, and board members.

I believe understanding behavior is central to animal welfare. Every animal deserves patience, compassion, and the chance to thrive in a loving home or a meaningful job suited to its needs.

As Board President, I look forward to working alongside our OCHS family to give more animals the love, comfort, safety, and brighter futures they all deserve.



For the Animals,

Jill Macfarland

Donor Spotlight: Larry Englund

Long before OCHS had a building, a small group of animal rescue advocates was already doing important work in Florence. Among those early heroes were Larry and Florence Englund. Dogs were housed in kennels at Camp Florence, where Larry and Florence were part of the small team caring for them. They cleaned kennels, fed and exercised the dogs, and gave each one plenty of love.

When the shelter was built in 1994, the Englunds continued their support as volunteers and donors. Larry walked dogs before eventually moving to the Thrift Store, where he spent years repairing, testing, and pricing electrical items. The couple sponsored a dog kennel when the shelter first opened and later sponsored another when new kennels were installed.

After Florence passed away, Larry chose OCHS to hold their estate sale before he moved. Florence was a talented artist, and sales of her beautiful needlepoint pieces raised thousands of dollars to help the animals in our care.

When OCHS purchased the Veterinary Clinic, Larry made the largest donation to date to sponsor the large medical suite. Today, a photograph of Larry and Florence on their wedding day hangs in the suite, serving as a lovely reminder of their lifetime of generosity. When asked why he gives to OCHS, Larry simply shared his love of animals. He grew up with animals and has been their advocate for more than 90 years!

How fortunate we are that Larry and Florence believed in OCHS long before it became the strong organization it is today. Trailblazers like the Englunds helped pave the way for the work we continue to do. We are deeply grateful for Larry's ongoing support as we look to the future and find new ways to serve even more animals and the people who love them.





YOUTH VOLUNTEERS: THE FUTURE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

Looking for a fun way to connect with your child while making a difference in your community? Join our Youth Volunteer program and help inspire the next generation of animal rescue superheroes!

There are so many ways for families to get involved at OCHS, from helping at our veterinary clinic and shelter to volunteering at the Thrift Store and community events. Young volunteers make a meaningful difference in the lives of our animals. Whether they're comforting a shy kitten or socializing a litter of playful puppies, the joy is contagious for everyone involved, both two-legged and four-legged!

Aspiring veterinarians can gain hands-on experience learning about animal care by helping with recovery at our Veterinary Clinic. A shift at the thrift store can help young volunteers build math, communication, and customer service skills. Every opportunity offers a chance to learn something new while giving back.

Children learn by watching the adults in their lives. Volunteering together is a wonderful way to build confidence, nurture compassion, and show kids the rewards of serving others. Join us at OCHS and make a difference together, four paws at a time!



Jaxon helping with laundry.



Lincoln helping with recovery at the clinic.



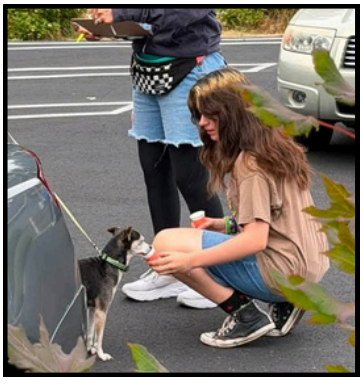
Lucky, our youngest volunteer, showing some kittens love.



Scarlett assisting Natalee with vaccines.



Mirabelle Socializing kittens.



Saffron helping at a vaccine clinic.

OCHS VETERINARY CLINIC CELEBRATES ITS FIRST YEAR

On August 27, 2026, OCHS Veterinary Clinic celebrated its first anniversary with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and community celebration! In our first year, we cared for more than 1,600 community animals, providing spay/neuter surgeries, vaccines, wellness exams, dental care, and emergency treatment.

A special highlight was honoring former OCHS Board President Mary Henry, with three areas of the clinic named in her honor. Family and friends traveled from as far away as Seattle to celebrate this special occasion with Mary.

Mary joined OCHS Veterinarian Dr. Tamay Guevara to cut the ribbon, and guests enjoyed tours of the facility and raffle prizes, including gift certificates to our thrift store and veterinary clinic.

We are incredibly grateful to the volunteers, donors, and supporters who believed in our vision for accessible veterinary care in our community. This milestone belongs to all of you! After all, we can't spell "community" without "U!"



Dr. Tamay Guevara and Mary Henry cutting the ribbon at our one year celebration.



Mary and husband Jim Henry at a plaque honoring Mary's service.



Mary Henry with daughter Hannah and two childhood friends, Janice and Sarah.

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

Many Ways to Help OCHS

Your generosity supports compassionate care for local cats and dogs through our shelter and clinic. Choose the giving option that works for you! Every gift makes a difference.

Donate: Give securely through PayPal, call (541) 997-4277 to give by credit/debit card, or mail a check to OCHS, 2840 Rhododendron Drive, Florence, OR 97439.

Membership: Annual unrestricted gifts of $30 or more provide individual membership with voting privileges. Gifts of $40 or more provide family membership with two votes in board elections.

Monthly Giving: Small, recurring gifts provide steady support all year.

President's Circle: Gifts of $1,000 or more include annual membership, special event invitations, insider updates, and visits with OCHS leadership.

Business Partnerships: Sponsor an event, host a donation jar, welcome a shelter pet to your workplace, contribute goods or services, or donate a share of sales.

Tribute Gifts: Honor or remember a special person or pet. OCHS will send a greeting as you direct.

Stock, Retirement, and Donor Advised Funds: Support OCHS through gifts of appreciated securities, eligible IRA gifts, or grants from a donor advised fund.

Legacy Giving: Leave a lasting gift through your will or trust.

Thrift Store: Donate clean, gently used clothing, household items, kitchenware, tools, jewelry, books, and craft supplies to our Thrift Store at 1193 Bay street. Receipts are available.

Pet Food Bank: Donate pet food, treats, and supplies to support shelter animals and neighbors in need. Open bags are welcome in their original packaging.

Wish Lists: Shop OCHS's Amazon and Chewy wish lists for current needs and have your gifts shipped directly to the shelter.

Returnable Cans and Bottles: These donations also help fund care for the animals!

For more giving information, visit our website at https://www.oregoncoasthumanesociety.org/ and click on the Ways to Give menu.

HAPPY TAILS: BANDIT (NOW ODIN)



2026 has been the year of puppies at OCHS! Bandit and his seven siblings came into our care after a local woman's dog had an unexpected litter. Our team decided to name the adorable crew after Smokey and the Bandit, and applications started pouring in! Before long, Smokey, Bandit, Sheriff Buford, Sugar Bear, Cledus, Hot Pants, Carrie, and Waynette had all found loving homes.

Bandit, now named Odin, lives right here in Florence. He has two kids and a canine sister named Lucy to keep him entertained! And here's the best part: his sister Hot Pants, now Winnie, was adopted by relatives. That means the family gets to watch these special puppies grow up together!

A special thank-you to our amazing volunteers and foster mom Antje, who made sure our puppies were well-socialized and ready for their new homes. Seeing families playing with our puppies in the play yards each day was such a joy!

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for special requests when we have extra puppies who need a little help. It takes a village to clean, socialize, and care for our most vulnerable shelter residents, and we are so grateful for everyone who pitches in!

HAPPY TAILS: EEVEE

Eevee first arrived at OCHS in 2019 as a mama cat with kittens. She was adopted and spent the next seven years in a loving home. After her mom passed away, her dad needed to move out of state to be closer to family who could help care for him. Already grieving the loss of his wife, he was heartbroken to also say goodbye to his beloved Eevee.

Eevee was grieving, too, when she returned to OCHS earlier this year. She spent her days lounging in the sunshine, rarely leaving her favorite window spot. Our team and volunteers adored her, and it wasn't long before one of our team members decided he was ready to welcome a cat into his life. He knew Eevee was the one! He started stocking up on supplies to spoil her, and soon Eevee began her next adventure: life on a boat with her new dad and canine brother, Luke.

Today, Eevee is the queen of the castle and deeply loved by her dad and brother. She's soaking up all the attention and discovering new cozy spots for her afternoon naps.

We're thrilled that Eevee has found her happy place and stayed right here in our OCHS family, where we can continue to love and adore her!



PLAN TODAY FOR THE PETS WHO DEPEND ON YOU

Your pets are family. Planning for their future can bring comfort today and help protect them if you can no longer care for them. OCHS's A Plan for My Pets™ provides continuing care for your beloved cats and dogs if death or serious disability separates you.

When pets arrive at the shelter through grieving families or local authorities, important details about their lives often don't come with them. Their favorite foods, medications, daily routines, and personalities help us give them the care and reassurance they need. By completing an A Plan for My Pets™ questionnaire for OCHS to keep securely on file, you can make sure those details are there when they matter most.

To enroll, complete the questionnaire and include a gift of any size to OCHS in your will or other estate plan. In return, we promise to welcome and care for your surviving cats or dogs and, when needed, find them loving new homes.

It's a thoughtful step now that gives your pets a caring future and your family one less worry during a difficult time.

Contact Elizabeth Thompson at #541-915-8619 or exec.director@oregoncoasthumanesociety.org for more information.

ESTATE SALES

Since 2019, the Oregon Coast Humane Society's Estate Sale Team has proudly served Florence-area families with compassionate, trusted estate sale services.
As the area's only nonprofit offering this support, OCHS helps families through important life transitions with care, integrity, and discretion. Families take what they wish to keep, and OCHS handles the rest, including researching, pricing, staging, advertising, and selling items.
Proceeds from every sale directly support OCHS shelter pets.
Contact Valerie Swensrud at 512-659-5208 or valerie@oregoncoasthumanesociety.org



GIVE A GIFT THAT LEAVES A LASTING PAWPRINT

As you plan your year-end giving, please consider sponsoring an item from our wish list! Each sponsored item or area will feature a plaque recognizing your generosity, making this a meaningful way to honor an animal-loving friend or family member.
Your gift helps our shelter and veterinary teams provide exceptional care to every animal who comes through our doors. Thank you for making a difference!

SHELTER WISH LIST

- Commercial Dryers | $3,937 for the pair: These Speed Queen double-stack dryers are already purchased and making an incredible difference in keeping up with our nonstop laundry!
- Dishwashers | $370 each: Three dishwashers are needed to clean and sanitize dishes in our dog, cat, and kitten departments. Sponsor one or all three!
- Dog Play Yard Gazebo | $9,500: A large, covered gathering area where families can meet adoptable dogs, rain or shine.
- Chain-Link Fencing and Gates | $4,500: Improvements to our lower play yards will create more room for dogs to play and make it easier for dog walkers to safely return them to their habitats.

VETERINARY CLINIC WISH LIST

- Tonometer | $3,913: Measures eye pressure to help diagnose conditions such as glaucoma, eye trauma, and inflammation.
- Microscope | $1,586: A much-needed upgrade featuring a removable tablet for easier viewing.
- X-Ray Aprons with Thyroid Shields | $850: Two protective aprons to help keep our veterinary team safe during digital imaging.
- Pulse Oximeter | $601: Monitors patients during surgery, including blood oxygen levels and other important indicators.
- Bonded Sealant Kit | $577: Helps treat worn or chipped teeth and is applied during dental procedures, reducing sensitivity, pain, and the risk of infection.
- Laryngoscope Kit | $200: Helps our team safely place breathing tubes during surgery and examine airways for potential problems.

MORE WAYS TO MAKE A LASTING IMPACT

Several veterinary clinic naming opportunities are still available! Contact Elizabeth Thompson at 541-915-8619, exec.director@oregoncoasthumanesociety.org, or visit our website at https://www.oregoncoasthumanesociety.org/clinic-2/ to learn more about equipment sponsorships and naming opportunities.
Thank you for helping us provide the very best care for the animals who depend on us!

THANK YOU, FLORENCE! FIVE AWARDS

You voted Oregon Coast Humane Society a five-time winner in the Siuslaw News Best of Florence 2025!



- Best Vet Clinic: OCHS Veterinary Clinic
- Best Veterinarian: Dr. Tamay Guevara
- Best Thrift Store: OCHS Thrift Store
- Best Nonprofit: Oregon Coast Humane Society
- Best Place to Volunteer: Oregon Coast Humane Society

We're grateful to the people and pets who make Florence so special. Join us in saving lives!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES - CURRENT NEEDS

SHELTER
Adoption follow-up phone calls (3-3-3)
Morning cleaning/opening support in dogs, cats, or kittens (8am-11am)
Reception desk Tuesday through Sunday 2pm-5pm
Reception desk Monday 10am-5pm (can be divided into two shifts)
Laundry (done at the shelter or at home)

THRIFT STORE
Stocking and merchandising the sales floor - biggest need is currently Saturday and Sunday
On call cashier shifts
Sorting and pricing donations

CLINIC
Reminder phone calls for appointments
Data entry, front office, clinic support - especially during spay/neuter events

You can find more information about becoming a volunteer on our website
www.oregoncoasthumanesociety.org/volunteer/
or Call 541-997-4277

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

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