

Cuddle Chronicle



Spring 2022

LETTER FROM NANETTE

Last week, piled on my desk, were hundreds of certificates waiting for my signature. Each one represented the hours and years our volunteers have given to Homeward Pet.

When my hand started to cramp and I looked out the window, there was beautiful, sweet Hannah out for a walk, leading the way with a behavior team volunteer. A little bit later, a volunteer knocked on my door to get my garbage and vacuum the floor. Facilities crew is a favorite. As are the feeder/cleaners, coming in every morning to clean up after our guests. Headed to the kitchen I caught the eye of a cat care volunteer crossing the hall between the cat and cat care rooms; waving with a hand holding a fresh bowl of food.

Throughout the day I run across numerous volunteers from the foster mom coming by to pick up large breed dog food to the clinic volunteer prepping kits for surgery. Familiar faces and new smiles each day; caring for our animals, our facility and our organization. Each volunteer a valued member of the Homeward Pet workforce. Their value immeasurable, although we once calculated it to be about \$1.5 million if we paid for every volunteer's time and talent.

During April we celebrate our volunteers, both past and present. And there are honestly not enough kind words I could say to express my appreciation for all you do. You deserve to proudly say #IAMHOMEWARDPET and know that you are an important part of what makes this organization so special.

Thank you for caring for the animals, the staff and each other.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nanette McGinn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Executive Director
Homeward Pet Adoption Center



#IAMHOMEPET

Karen and Jay Orr

“Dogs get you up and out every day, regardless of the weather or your mood, which makes them an important part of really living each day. ~ Karen”

Volunteers and donors, Karen and Jay Orr first discovered us when we were Hooterville Pets and have been on board with our mission ever since. Karen started volunteering in 2017 after one of their dogs, Betty, passed away and Jay started bringing their other dog, Doc, to work with him. Karen notes that, without Betty there to listen, she was essentially talking to herself, so she signed up to volunteer at Homeward Pet. “I started out as a feeder-cleaner, hoping to get into dog walking. But I really do enjoy it. You’re interacting with dogs in a different way, and I like knowing I’m making sure they eat, and have a clean inviting place to rest. It’s not glamorous, but it is important and makes a difference.”



The lives of both Karen and Jay Orr are punctuated by the animals that have shared them. A retired Fisheries Research

Biologist, Jay has named and formally described over 24 new species of marine life during his career and continues to be very involved in the field. He grew up with Schnauzers and has a soft spot for the mid-sized scruffies. Their current pup, Russ, fits that bill perfectly. Karen, a retired software test engineer, muses that she knew her life was meant to include animals from a very young age when she eschewed dolls in favor of stuffed animals.

The Orr family currently consists of a single pet, Russ, a 7-year-old dna-tested scruffy mutt, who was adopted from Homeward Pet in 2017. Russ loves chasing squirrels and rabbits and peering out the front window to survey his domain. If you were at last year’s Homeward Pet Open Golf Tournament, you might have met him. He has been the Homeward Pet ambassador at several events and loves meeting new people. The Orrs recently lost their other dog, Doc, who was 17 and adopted from Wenatchee Humane. Another dog might be in their future, but they’ll know when the time is right. Russ doesn’t mind being the only spoiled pup in the family for now.

“Karen is a top-notch volunteer in every sense of the word. She will happily assume any role asked of her, and preforms everything with admirable proficiency. Whether it be tending to the needs of our dogs in the Dog Room, walking dogs in rainstorms, providing enrichment or training new volunteers, Karen can truly do it all. Not only is she an excellent volunteer, but she’s a wonderful person as well. Homeward is fortunate to have her, and I’m thankful to have her on my team!” ~ Will Campbell, Animal Care and Adoption Specialist



“It’s hard to choose a favorite pet as every pet has been there at the right time in my life. ~ Karen”

“Karen has been a steadfast member of our Friday dog care crew. She always does her job with a smile on her face and does a fantastic job. She has trained countless new feeding and cleaning volunteers over the years, so her attention to detail and thoughtful approach to the job are well represented at the shelter.” ~ June Kloubec, Fellow Volunteer

In addition to the important volunteer work that Karen does in the shelter, the Orrs are also valued donors. “We see the effort and care the staff and volunteers put in to each animal. They try to focus on the best interests of the animals in their charge, and go beyond many organizations in their ability to bring in senior animals and to address more medical and behavior issues. Without that effort, many pets wouldn’t find the people they’re meant to be with. We both feel giving back is important, and from my perspective Homeward Pet is thoughtful in the way they use funds received. We both feel giving back is extremely important.”

Karen and Jay will be at our upcoming Fur Ball and are especially looking forward to the stories that come up during the dinner presentation. They feel they are heartwarming and worth hearing in person to get a sense for the true heart in what Homeward Pet does.

UPCOMING EVENTS

05/21 Fur Ball Auction & Dinner (Registration closes May 11)

08/26 Homeward Pet Open Golf Tournament (Registration opens in June)

See all Homeward Pet events on our website: homewardpet.org/events/

Registration closes on May 11 for the Fur Ball Auction and Dinner

Do you have your tickets yet? bit.ly/hpac-furball22



SPONSORS

Our sponsors allow us to funnel all of the funds raised at our larger events directly to the needs of the shelter. Thank you to the following top tier sponsors for our upcoming Fur Ball Auction & Dinner



INSIDE THE NUMBERS 2022 YEAR TO DATE



Shelter Adoptions	233
Dogs	79
Cats	154
Home to Home adoptions	49
Shelter Intakes	265
Dogs	80
Cats	185
Volunteer hours	14,547
Number of Volunteers	461
Facebook Followers	19,200
Instagram Followers	5,545



HAPPY TAILS

Mochi and Squeakie

"Just wanted to send a quick update on Moochie (renamed Mochi) and Squeakie (renamed Kulfi).

They are both doing great. Mochi has some allergies that we're working with our vet to address (we're trying special diets, litters, and medication), and they seem to be getting better. As they've improved, his crooked little smile has gone away, but that seems to be the only downside. Kulfi has been diagnosed with asthma and started treatments (she hasn't had any attacks in days, so we're happy with her progress).



They are the sweetest cats. Mochi is quite a cuddle bug and incredibly sweet, while Kulfi demands daily belly rubs and likes to sleep with us at night. They are generally sweet with one another, though there have been a few (very minor) scuffles over who gets to sit on which perch of their cat tree."

Bernie

"Bernie is doing great. He is a gentle and sweet boy. He gets so excited when he knows that breakfast is coming and he does a little hop hop. He loves his walks and lets me know if I am taking too long to put his leash on by gently barking. His definition of too long is about 30 seconds.

He can't walk too far with his arthritis but we go for daily 500 to 1000 foot long walks. He wants to say hello and be petted by everyone he sees. He is a total kid magnet and often gets kisses on his head from them within a few minutes of meeting them.



His new sister Penny was not too sure about having a new brother as she was concerned that she may receive a decreased amount of head rubs and treats. Now that she realizes this is not the case, she tolerates him and occasionally will lie next to him. This is huge as she does not bond with other dogs generally. I am so in love with him."

BLACK JACK

Black Jack was a healthy, happy, playful kitten. Born in a barn, he was handled and carried “since his eyes were opened”, growing into a cat that likes attention and enjoys affection, seeking out pets from kids, warming up quickly to strangers, and even making friends with dogs. But he was never able to make the transition to being an indoor cat.

Black Jack came to Homeward Pet in need of urgent medical care.



At just 1-1/2 years old, a fall off a shelf left him with a fractured bone in his left rear leg. He'd been in a cast for a month, but x-rays revealed that the leg was not healing properly. **Our veterinary team quickly pulled a plan together – a thorough exam, then fitted him with a new splint, provided medications for pain, and assessed his tolerance for the amputation that was most likely coming.** We sent Black Jack to a consult with an orthopedic surgeon to confirm the prognosis, and sent him to a foster home so he could get used to the home where he'd be recovering. Black Jack's leg was amputated at the Homeward Pet clinic.

With his foster family providing a slow, careful rehabilitation, Black Jack set about winning over the dog in the home. When the last staples were removed, and the final check completed by our veterinarian, Black Jack wasted no time returning to being his active, goofy, social self.



Black Jack is now a content, indoor cat, but he still gets his much-loved outdoor time. He and his canine sibling have become inseparable and can now take walks together “...trying out a harness since he used to be an outdoor cat...he took to it right away and explored all over the backyard (followed by indoor cuddles with Callie)!”, says Christine, who provided the foster home that has become Black Jack's forever home.

Your gift to Whoopi's Fund allows us to provide extraordinary medical care to animals in need. Major surgeries, specialist consultations and essential diagnostic procedures are available to our animals thanks to your generosity. Because of you, we can help them heal, and then help them find a home.

