

WAGS TO RICHES

A 501 (C) (3) Non-Profit Organization



ANIMAL RESCUE AND SANCTUARY, INC.

*SEVENTH Edition
NOV.-DEC. 2009*

THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

Every year, during the holidays, I think that I understand the magic of Christmas giving. But this year I realized that the magic happened to Wags all year long.

We all know that Santa comes in all sizes and shapes. He comes at all times during the year and that we don't always recognize him because he doesn't always wear red and he isn't always a he.

What I do realize is that Santa is a heart thing. He is my heart and your heart and everybody else's heart who gives to others. Santa spent some extra time with Wags this year. He must have known that the animals of Wags needed him a lot.

All year long there were Santas waving their magic wands for Wags. We had small Santas and large Santas. We had Santas who had birthday parties (Trista) and gave us dog and cat food, who did pet food drives, a Santa who went to Christmas Bazaars and gave us what he earned (Ryan). We had Santa and Mrs. Jim Speidel who donated over 400 toy cars and trucks to Wags and Santa Mullenhoff who donated over 130 stuffed dogs and cats. Santa Bob and Santa Fred who opened up their home and hearts to us and Santa Jane who is very photogenic.

We had Santas that donated money because they couldn't help and others who helped because they couldn't donate money and the Santas who were able to see our vision for Wags and the programs of Wags and granted us money to help with those programs. We had other Santas (Mark & Anita Adolf) who were there for us when we were just feeling tired or sad.

And then we had the Santas of Wags, the volunteers, who gave so much in so many different ways. You all know who you are and you are who made me realize that it is "a heart thing."

Even though the wands were not all the same size and

neither were the Santas, the magic was the same. Each one of you stepped into Santa Claus boots and made the magic happen for the animals, for the kids who are learning to respect and be responsible for animals and for the senior citizens who will be able to keep their animals in their homes longer and live healthier lives because of it.

And, mostly because of your magic you all make this world a better place.

Juanda Krebs-Editor



THANK YOU YAKIMA VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Wags to Riches was honored to be one of the few non-profits selected to receive a grant from the Yakima Valley Community Foundation for our Senior Companion Program.

This program will actively work with the seniors who are registered with the Meals on Wheels Program to help keep their best friend by their sides and alleviate having to make the choice between caring for their pets and caring for themselves.

Many researchers are finding that the most serious disease for older persons is not cancer or heart disease — it's loneliness. Seniors, living on their own, who have pets tend to have better physical health and mental well-being than those who don't. They are more active, cope better with stress and have better overall health.

We are very grateful that the Board of the YVCF was able to see our vision for this program and we hope to expand it to other seniors in the years to come.

For more information about the Foundation please visit www.yvcf.com or call 509-457-7616.

Happy Holidays to you all!!!

SUPERMAN AT CHRISTMAS TIME

Do yourself a favor and read about Ryan

Many of us have been experiencing frustration, in our families, work, and in life, myself included. I seem to be doing a lot, but don't seem to be gaining any ground. Under appreciated, under paid, insert un- here. Or so I was feeling.

Today a fellow Wags volunteer, Jan, and I held a Wags booth at a Holiday Bazaar. It was a lot of fun, exhausting, but a lot of fun.

A 9 year old young man by the name of Ryan came up to talk to me after we had been there for a bit this morning. His mom was standing behind him, quietly listening while he ask questions about what it was like to "work" for Wags. He wanted to know what we did, what kind of dogs, the usual. He was your average looking kid, from a family that looked like every penny had to be counted to make it through the month. You know, the kid you answer the questions too, give him a Wags dog tag, pat on the head and make sure he always feeds and plays with his pets.

I was so way off. What Ryan finally got around to telling me was he wanted to donate what he earned today to Wags to help the dogs. I tried not to cry in front of the kid, as I try not to cry as I retell this now. There is no way on earth this family has ANY money to donate. There is no way this kid has any reason to donate anything to anyone. We talked to him throughout the day, and I still didn't fully grasp what this little guy was doing. I, we, get so lax with "donations" like its our right because we are a not-profit doing "good things for animals".

He brought me an envelope at the end of the day. I hugely thanked him on behalf of the dogs and us!! I'm glad when I opened the envelope, I was all alone. Inside was \$21. Holy crap. Doesn't that kid know that 9 year olds don't do that? 9 year olds save to get a new PSP game. They save to get a new Bionicle. They buy candy. Their mom keeps it to pay bills or get groceries. They don't give it to people that they don't know to help dogs they've never met, that they've never seen. Ugh.

I now am one of the luckiest people in the whole world. I got to meet Super Man in the form of a nine year old. I have a new buddy on Facebook.

I got to meet a mom who has taught her young man that no matter what they have, others are in need too. Ryan is going to change the world. I have no doubt. He has changed my heart, changed my perspective, changed my attitude.

Now that I am sitting in my living room bawling my eyes out typing this, I will ask you, now that you know we have Super Man on our side, What can you do? I know myself, I can quit complaining about why things aren't getting done. I can be the one to take a part of Wags and work to get it done. I CAN give an extra hour doing a volunteer job that, lets face it, may not be that glamorous or great, and do it.

I don't want to waste a penny of Ryan's gift. I don't want to let him down. He trusts that we are going to take care of these unwanted dogs. He trusts me. He trusts all of us. Without a doubt, he knows we are going to do it. I have to. He's worth it.

TJ Martin - Volunteer

THANK YOU WAL-MART FOUNDATION

Wags would like to thank the Wal-Mart Foundation for their \$1,000.00 donation to the Wags to Riches Senior Companion Program.

This program, partially funded by a grant from the Yakima Valley Community Foundation, is the 3rd part of a partnership with the Yakima County Department of Food Services (Meals on Wheels) and Manning's Dog Training.

Yakima County Dept of Food Services supplies food to seniors who are registered with the Meals on Wheels program. If there are companion animals that also need food Manning's Dog Training is contacted and food is supplied for those pets.

Wags to Riches role will be to work with those seniors that have pets to determine if they are able to take care of them and will do everything possible to help them keep those pets with them for as long as possible. This help includes veterinary trips, volunteers visiting the homes, grooming assistance etc.

If it is determined that it is necessary for the companion animals to leave the home Wags will foster them until we are able to place them in new loving homes. It gives those pets another chance at a good life.

THANK YOU PETCO FOUNDATION

Wags to Riches was honored to be selected to receive a grant from the Petco Foundation for our children's education program The 3 "R's" of Wags.

This program is designed to teach kids to be respectful of animals, to be responsible pet owners and to understand rescue and how they can save animals too. Our primary mission is to encourage, in children, the lifelong appreciation of the value of animals and of people's relationships with them and is designed to work with teachers in meeting this program's educational goals.

This program, was developed because of the increasing incidents of animal abuse and the direct correlation between children who abuse animals and grow up to become abusive adults to both animals and people and because of the ever expanding pet population.

From Pre-school thru 6th grade there is something different each year. We thank the Petco Foundation for their belief in our program and our ability to make a difference in the lives of kids and animals.



2010 CALENDARS ARE READY FOR DELIVERY

To order go to
www.WagstoRichesAnimalRescue.org

This year there were 134 entries and nearly
1800 votes were cast.

Congratulations to the winners.

OSCAR... A RESCUE IN PROGRESS

The story of Oscar began with the story of Lucky who was lost in the rafting accident in July or August. A man called Jennifer Wilde to report that there was a small chihuahua mix at Umptanum recreational site and it might be Lucky.

A Wags volunteer soon determined that it was not Lucky. This little guy must have been dumped there during the Summer. Wags volunteers have made over 30 trips up to that area since then with various contraptions and elaborate well planned out ideas to capture Oscar but he is just so clever he has alluded all of our snares.

Others go frequently to this site and walk the trails with their dogs. We have met them up there 2 or 3 times in a joint venture to capture him. We have had picnics in the freezing cold with food to try to entice him. He will get so close and then run back into the hills where he must have a burrow. A Wags volunteer has spent many a night up there in the dark with a flashlight and his fencing and snares to try to get him. He always sees him and feeds him but he will not let us catch him.

We have an overturned apple bin up there with sleeping bags in it for a shelter and food in it for him. The food has been eaten so we know he has been there. He came out of the bin with a weiner sticking out of his mouth like a big cigar a few days ago. It would have been a perfect pic. That's how he got his name Oscar for all the wieners he has eaten.

Oscar was even hit by a car and a man called to let us know. Wags asked him to pick him up off the road and we would come up to bury him. Wags got there and there goes Oscar walking right in front of the truck. He has also survived coyotes in the area. We've heard them howling one night really close by.

So the story is a work in progress. Some people have been able to get him close to the bathroom & almost got him in there but the door wouldn't shut in time. So there is still hope. He is getting hungrier and coming closer. Most of the time he just sits up on his hill and looks down at all the silly people trying to capture him. Wags will not rest until this dog is caught and safe.

UPDATE ON OSCAR



Less than one hour after I finished this story and needed just one picture of Oscar I got a call from a Wags volunteers who asked if I wanted the pictures I had asked for 35 minutes before or a picture of Oscar in the crate. **THEY GOT HIM!!** They got him cornered in the bathroom at the rec. area and from there he had to go into the crate. No other way out.

So, Oscar got to sleep in a warm home last night.

Sorry Oscar, no more Oscar Meyer Wieners, no more Biscuits and Gravy & no more junk food.

Welcome Home Oscar. Merry Christmas to Wags!!!



THE COLD WEATHER IS HERE

Winter is one of the most dangerous times of the year for dogs. Just because our pets have fur doesn't mean they don't feel the chill. Cold temperatures can be just as brutal on your dog or cat as they are on you.

During cold weather, take special precautions to keep your pet comfortable, both indoors and out. A nice warm sweater, a comfy heated bed, extra blankets. Any type of shelter can make a difference. And don't forget to keep their water thawed.

How do you know when outside time is too much for your dog? When you're out with your dog and you start to feel cold and uncomfortable, it's a pretty safe bet that your dog or cat will be feeling it, too.

During the cold snowy months ahead, your pet will run the risk of picking up rock salt, ice and chemicals on his paws each time he uses the sidewalks, driveway and streets. There is a tendency for dogs to lick the salt off their paws, which can cause inflammation in the digestive tract. That's why it's so important to wipe your dog's paws thoroughly every time he comes inside, and make sure there are no ice balls between his toes or on the soles of his feet.

Unfortunately there are a lot of strays out there too. Please consider putting an extra bit of food and water out for them. Even an extra box and blanket. Some place for them to get shelter. Maybe by the time the weather warms up they will be friendly and may have an opportunity to be adopted and have a new home. They deserve a happy home too.

THANK YOU FOSTERS-

Darlene Elliott, Bob Chism, Pam McDonnell, Melissa Barnett, Jody and Ken Marvin, Jaime Hammerstad, TJ Martin, Ken and Laurie Massett, Kim Massengale, Claudia Lane and Roger Vandiver.



In Loving Memory Of...

Jan Woolen
donation by Juanita Meloy Johnson

Maxine Massong Fredell
donation by Bob and Annie Massong

Gladys Hammarstrom
donated by Cowiche Growers, Inc.

SWEET MEMORIES OF....

Caricoe's Wyatt Earp CD
donation by Marsha Zack

Sally
donation by Paul & Natalie Newman



ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT YEAR-END TAX DEDUCTIONS?

We hope that you will think of the animals of Wags, both current and those to come, as you finish out the year and are looking for places to make donations before income tax time.

We are a 501 (c) (3) and donations are tax deductible. You will receive a receipt for income tax purposes.

We are sincerely grateful for every donation. Every penny counts. **THANK YOU!!!**

WAGS- RESCUED, SAVED
and counting...
467

Wags to Riches Animal Rescue
and Sanctuary, Inc.
PO Box 3177
Union Gap, WA 98903
509-453-4155
www.WagstoRichesAnimalRescue.org

Count Me in!

I want to help the animals with my tax-deductible contribution.

Amount Enclosed: \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other

Funds to be allocated as follows:

Where most needed _____
Merlin Scholarship Fund _____
Emergency Medical Fund _____
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(509) 453-4155

Thank you!

www.WagstoRichesAnimalRescue.org

Please make checks payable to Wags To Riches. You will receive a donation acknowledgement/receipt for tax purposes.
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