

• W • A • G •

# WILLAMETTE ANIMAL GUILD

## SPAY~NEUTER PROJECT

3045 Royal Ave, Eugene, OR 97402  
PO Box 22752, Eugene, OR 97402  
541-345-3566 | wagwag.org

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Misha English • *President, Treasurer*  
Trish Cole • *Secretary*  
Diane Weaver  
Maureen Keith  
Laurel Findlay  
Cheryl Campbell

## ADVISORY BOARD

Kathy Ford  
Joey Curtin  
Diane Bolte-Silverman

## VETERINARIANS

Dr. Phoebe Cone, DVM  
*Medical Director/Surgical Veterinarian*  
Dr. Bernie Robe, DVM  
*Relief Surgical Veterinarian*

## CLINIC STAFF

Evie Angelique, *Certified Vet Tech*  
Shanah Grossman, *Certified Vet Tech*  
Kendra Glasscock, *Vet Assistant*  
Parker Busby, *Vet Assistant*  
Danielle Wharff, *Vet Assistant*

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Tracy Busby, *Director of Operations*  
Debbie Brown, *Practice Manager/VA*  
Charlotte Helton, *Scheduling Coordinator*  
Alyssa Guthrie, *Administrative Assistant*



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear WAG Supporters,

**WAG has come full circle.** 20 years ago, in response to an average kill rate of 8 animals/day at our county shelter, local citizens came together to raise funds for a low-cost, high-volume spay/neuter clinic. A committed, hardworking WAG board meant the vision was a good bet, and community members gave generously. WAG's S/N clinic opened in 2008.

Today, WAG is an even better bet with nearly 84,000 surgeries completed, translating into at least 420,000 kitties and puppies that never came to be in a world where there simply aren't enough homes to love them all. We have also provided hundreds of thousands of vaccines, flea treatments and many life-saving pyometra surgeries. WAG has become an animal welfare institution in Lane County by supporting low-income pets, keeping costs low for rescues, and lowering intake numbers for shelters.

**Now for our full circle moment:** We just learned that our home of 18 years is being sold and WAG has just over a year to raise significant funds for a new clinic. To that end, we are announcing our second capital campaign. We know that with your help we can secure a new home and continue to provide critical community services. Please read on for more information and thank you for your support!

Misha English  
WAG Board President

## \$90,000 DOUBLE-MATCHING FUND!

Several long-time WAG supporters have joined our yearly \$50,000 anonymous donor to raise the double-matching fund to \$90,000! A donation of \$50 becomes \$150, \$500 becomes \$1,500. If \$45,000 is raised from this newsletter, WAG will receive a total of \$135,000!

We are grateful to Dr. Bernie Robe, Kathy Ford, Louanne and Craig Koch, Jay Silverman and Diane Bolte-Silverman, Joey Curtin and 5 other anonymous donors for their incredible generosity.



## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

Originally, WAG had planned to announce a 3-year capital campaign for a new building. Our goal was to secure a larger, permanent home that would allow us to double the number of S/N surgeries each year, as well as provide full service veterinary care for those pets in financially-disadvantaged homes. The loss of the Community Vet Center (CVC) was a devastating blow to people for whom standard veterinary care is financially inaccessible, and WAG felt strongly that we should step up and fill the void.

However, the discovery that we will be losing our current home in just a year has forced us to accelerate our fundraising timeline. But with every challenge comes opportunity, and WAG has been preparing for this moment. Over the last several years, WAG has set aside as much as possible including funds from Linn Marell's estate, our first Loving Legacy donor (see [wagwag.org/support/a-loving-legacy](http://wagwag.org/support/a-loving-legacy)). We have invested wisely, and our seed money has grown to \$500,000. Additionally, our thrift store income covers clinic shortfalls, meaning all donations can now grow our capital fund.

WAG needs to buy or lease-to-own a building to create a permanent home for our vital services, and it needs to be large enough for service expansion. Estimates for purchase and build out for Phase One (2 surgical suites, 2 exam rooms, kennels and offices) is between 1.5 and 2 million dollars. We have a great head start, and with strong community support we will secure WAG's future together!

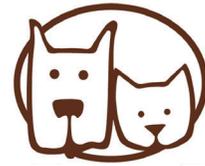
## IN LOVING MEMORY

WAG and the Eugene community lost a friend to animals and people in May of this year, not to mention an incredibly talented surgeon. Our medical director, Dr. Marybeth Chaconas, died of a rare and aggressive cancer less than 3 weeks after her diagnosis. The loss was devastating for our team. It felt like one minute she was in surgery, belting out her favorite tunes, and the next minute she was gone.



Marybeth came to Eugene from Virginia in 2022 to pursue two goals: one, to join an established spay/neuter nonprofit with a cohesive team; and two, move with her husband to Oregon, something they'd always dreamed about doing together. We were thrilled to have Marybeth join WAG as much for her significant surgical experience, as her positive energy, fun-loving nature and can-do attitude.

In the years that Marybeth was with WAG, she elevated our practice in many ways including implementing "fear free" protocols for anxious pets. She absolutely loved being a veterinarian and it showed: she gave WAG her absolute all. Marybeth adored her co-workers, and they found a friend in her. We all miss her dearly and are grateful to have been lucky enough to know her.



# BELLA + BEAR

~ A WAG THRIFT STORE ~

## THRIFT STORE

Bella + Bear has been a great success: not only have we netted over \$35,000 in our first 11 months, but we have increased WAG's profile in the community, raising thousands more. Opening the store confirmed what we long suspected: if you don't use us, you don't know us. But not anymore. Bella + Bear has provided an opportunity for conversations with shoppers about WAG and what we do for animals in our community. It also provides a fun and effective way to support our mission, especially during the holidays!

Thanks to our very generous donors, our little boutique is chock full of high-quality gift items including jewelry, cards, collectibles, vintage treasures, adorable cat and dog items, pottery, fine scarves, local artist pieces and so much more. Come see! To learn more please visit: [wagwag.org/bella-bear](http://wagwag.org/bella-bear)



## NEW BOARD MEMBERS



### MAUREEN KEITH

Maureen started her pet career cleaning cages at a local pet store at the age of 15 and went on to be a key account manager for a major pet product distributor for 37 years. She is a past president of Stop Pet Overpopulation Today (SPOT) and was also

on the original WAG board of directors. She returned to the WAG board in 2024. Maureen lives with a rescue German Shepherd and 3 cats.



### CHERYL CAMPBELL

Cheryl is a retired speech pathologist with the Anchorage School District. She has been a board member with SPOT since 2018, currently serving as president. Cheryl also helps manage a corgi Facebook page, Corgi Lovers of Eugene/Springfield. Joining

WAG's board gives Cheryl the opportunity to advocate and champion its mission, one very close to her heart. Cheryl lives with her husband Vernon and a very spoiled corgi, Sophie.



### LAUREL FINDLAY

Laurel was raised with all kinds of animals and has worked as an equine veterinary assistant. She spent her youth working in Alaska, traveling in Mexico and Central America, walking around New Zealand twice and cycling throughout Australia before

starting a Eugene orchid business in 1988. A longtime volunteer with SPOT, Greenhill and Lovable, she always came home with a new dog, so she started volunteering at WAG's thrift store instead. She lives with her very kind husband and 2 rescue dogs.



### TRISH COLE

Trish has always loved animals, rescuing them at a very young age. She volunteered for SPOT in college when she realized spay/neuter could solve suffering from pet overpopulation. Post-graduation, Trish worked for Wildlife Safari, returned

to Eugene to marry and start a family, and joined the SPOT board. Trish founded, owned and operated Suds 'Em Yourself for over 30 years. Trish has 2 children and 31 rescued animals including dogs, cats, cockatoo, miniature horses, goats, llamas, pigs and chickens.



## THANK YOU, JANICE AND ANGIE!

Two WAG board members retired in 2025 after nearly a decade of service to our organization. They worked tirelessly and selflessly for our community and deserve a hearty thank you for their dedication to WAG's mission. Janice Howard was our secretary and resident voice of reason, and her commitment to WAG was unflagging. Angie Bosch was our treasurer and data guru who managed our books and other computer-based needs with her foster kittens' "help." We are grateful for their service.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



### BRENDA BLACK

WAG loves its volunteers, and with our newer Bella + Bear thrift store, we have brought even more into the family. Brenda Black runs the shop once a week with our new board member, Laurel Findlay. Together, they are the Thursday dynamic duo

who also spread the word about WAG's mission and the shop on their days off! Brenda comes to us with significant retail experience as part owner of Down to Earth Home, Garden & Gift. Thank you, Brenda!



### KRISTEN KAMINSKI

Kristen Kaminski volunteers with Bella + Bear behind the scenes. She sorts donations that our little shop does not have the market or space for, and redistributes them to other local nonprofits such as the Relief Nursery and a local food bank. Kristen also

serves as honorary auntie to the shop pug, Harley, and regularly swings by to take him out for walks when the store gets busy. Thank you, Kristen!

## WAG BY THE NUMBERS

S/N Surgeries YTD 3,262

S/N Surgeries Since 2008 83,794

Clients Receiving  
S/N Subsidies YTD 829 (\$36,099)

Feral Packages  
(S/N, Vaccines, Flea Tx) YTD 472

Life-Saving  
Pyometra Surgeries YTD 12

## OTHER WAG NEWS

- WAG welcomes Larry Bradford, former CPA and small business owner, to the WAG team as our new volunteer bookkeeper.
- 12 years of exceptional leadership: Tracy Busby, WAG's Director of Operations, and Debbie Brown, WAG's Practice Manager, will both celebrate 12 years of service with us in early 2026. They both started with WAG as veterinarian assistants and now have an incredible breadth of clinical and institutional knowledge. WAG is very lucky to have their leadership.
- A huge thank you to Dr. McKinley Smith and Dr. Katherine Snell for helping us with relief work as we continue interviewing for a second surgeon.
- Thanks to James Hershiser for his great work on this year's newsletter.



## SUPPORT WAG TODAY!

Be a part of making spay/neuter affordable for all! Please use the enclosed envelope to support us today. You can also make a donation online: [wagwag.org/donate](http://wagwag.org/donate)