

DOG TALK *With Nancy Truax*



A New Home for the Holidays

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As many of you are bustling around town doing your holiday shopping, decorating your homes, and preparing for guests, Oregon Dog Rescue (ODR), an all-breed, no-kill, non-profit organization, will be moving into its first dedicated home. My original column in Tualatin Life (June 2009) was about my volunteer experience with ODR and was entitled "The Best Job in the World". Since then, I have watched this incredibly dedicated group of volunteers work tirelessly to place dogs in the very best homes, train the more difficult ones to make them family-friendly, and nurse quite a few injured or ill dogs back to health so that they are adoptable. Deb Bowen and Krystyna Schmidt, the women who started the organization, and their devoted volunteers, have found permanent homes for 1200 dogs since July of 2007.

Until now, Oregon Dog Rescue has had their weekly adoption events at the Tualatin Petsmart and placed their charges in foster homes during the week. Their goal has always been to have a facility of their own so that they can have play areas where the dogs can socialize, have the ability to give the canines lots of one-on-one time, and most importantly, be able to make the pooches available to meet potential adopters on a daily basis. The newly-leased facility on Nyberg Road (across the street from Petsmart) will allow them to do all of this.

Deb and Krystyna knew from the beginning that they would have to watch every penny in order to have a home of their own. They found wonderful veterinarians who believed in them and their mission and were willing to give their pooches the very best care at a reduced cost. They found a company that was willing to donate their top-of-the-line food to feed the dogs on an ongoing basis. Deb and Krystyna

found a website designer, a photographer, and a trainer who were willing to donate their time to make the organization run as smoothly and professionally as possible. Additional volunteers have been critical in helping with the care of the dogs and the adoption process. Following this course has allowed them to save \$30,000 to move into a new home.



Several communities were considered, but Deb and Krystyna kept coming back to Tualatin. The Tualatin/Lake Oswego/Tigard area has always been the cornerstone of adoptions and support. Many of the volunteers are from Tualatin, some of the most dedicated being those who started at age 13 by walking dogs and have learned over a period of time to help with the placement in permanent homes. There are adults who arrive every Saturday to help exercise the dogs, care for them, and assist with the adoptions. Others help with social networking, outreach and special events. Oregon Dog Rescue would love to give residents an opportunity to volunteer and see the work they do. As a volunteer, I can tell you that it is most gratifying to see a dog walk out the door with his tail wagging on his way to a new home.

In addition to volunteer support, Oregon Dog Rescue could also use financial and in-kind support as they take this enormous next step. An ongoing monthly pledge of \$10 (or even \$25) through Paypal would be incredibly helpful, as would a one-time cash gift. (Oregon Dog Rescue is a 501(c)(3) organization, so all contributions are tax-deductible.) I can't

imagine any organization being more careful with your donation. Gift cards from Parr Lumber, Home Depot, Petco or Petsmart would be quite useful as they embark on their new adventure. A dishwasher and refrigerator would be wonderful additions to the new facility (new or used). A long list of dog-related items (see oregondogrescue.org for a complete list) such

as leashes, collars, flea treatment, chews and toys would be greatly appreciated.

My work with the Tualatin Chamber of Commerce has taught me the importance of new business in Tualatin. I am thrilled that Deb and Krystyna have chosen to locate their new home here. They are supporting the community by choosing Tualatin and I hope that we can support them. Oregon Dog Rescue has found homes for 400 dogs in 2011 and will place even more next year. Please show Oregon Dog Rescue that Tualatin is proud to have such a wonderful organization in the community. As you are enjoying holiday songs and creating beautiful decorations (or perhaps just looking for ways to increase your 2011 tax deductions), please spread a little cheer to Oregon Dog Rescue.

