



Dear Project POOCH Supporters & Friends,

Our year started off with significant challenges, as we faced both a wind and ice storm in January. Tops to our outdoor enclosures ripped, pipes froze and burst—there was a lot of clean up to do. But with **challenge comes opportunity**, and we saw our youth rise to the occasion and **work as a team** to get POOCH back into operational mode and ensure the pups were well cared for.

“Project POOCH is such an amazing opportunity to grow, learn, and hang out with dogs; and be the change in not just people but in animals, too.”

-POOCH Youth

During the spring and summer months, the overflowing shelter crisis came to our doors. Adoptions were non-existent for 4 months, while surrenders were high. We took in two special case owner surrenders (Rosie & Simba), had a pup abandoned at our Lake Oswego office (Cliff), and took in a POOCH pup initially adopted in 2013 when his owner became too sick to care for him. At one point, we were full-to-bursting with 8 POOCH pups as well as a full roster of boarding dogs. While challenging, it was an excellent opportunity for our youth to experience managing a very busy kennel while **ensuring all the dogs’ physical and mental needs were met**, and still fitting in time for training (and snuggles!).

Moving into the fall, our adoptions picked up as summer vacations came to a close and families started to look for their furry companions once again. Spirits both lifted and lowered as we adopted our pups into their forever homes. The youth always love to see the pups find their families, but it is also hard to say goodbye to the dogs they have come to know and love. **There is a lot of growth that comes from saying goodbye, in a healthy and positive way**—a skill that many of our youth are learning for the first time.

One Youth’s POOCH Journey

As I sit back and look at what we accomplished this year, I’d like to share one youth’s journey through POOCH, as I feel it perfectly encapsulates what we strive to achieve in our program. Dave (pseudonym) started at POOCH

Continued

2024 Highlights

- Served **19 Youth**
- Youth worked **9,281 hours** at the kennel
- 9 Youth earned **Pet Care Provider Certifications**
- 9 Youth earned **Pet Care Specialist Certifications**
- 8 Youth earned **Fear Free Shelter Certifications**
- Youth **earned \$44,000** through wage incentives and adoption, boarding, daycare, and grooming fees
- **Adopted 11 POOCH dogs**; currently working with **4 POOCH dogs**
- Served **29 boarding dogs**, providing **409 boarding nights**
- Served **14 daycare dogs**, providing **192 daycare days**
- Featured on **OPB & NPR** (see page 2 for more information)

Participation numbers as of Nov. 15, 2024.

Project POOCH is in Willamette Week’s Give Guide!

Learn more about how you can contribute and donor incentives on page 3.

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in late 2023. At just 18 years old, he had been in and out of corrections for several years. When he started at Project POOCH, he immediately threw himself into the work. He quickly became one of our most dependable workers, building solid relationships with his staff team and his peers.

But it was with the pups that Dave's personality truly shone. He worked hard to learn dog body language and put that knowledge to use as he trained the pups. He took pride in his ability to get pups to take their meds, especially the picky pups. If a dog was difficult to get out of a kennel in the morning, Dave was the go-to guy. He would work every day at POOCH if he could. **Dave loved working with the dogs, hanging out with them, and caring for them.** There were a couple of months where he and another youth competed to see who could put in the most hours—they ended up tying at 230 hours. His smile lit up the room when we told him he had clocked the highest number of hours ever in a single month at POOCH.

Dave didn't come from the best home life. He lived with a lack of stability and many other challenges from the time he came into the world. At POOCH we celebrate our youth's birthdays with simple treats, such as cupcakes, cheesecake, and their favorite, Takis. We gather the team together and sing Happy Birthday. On Dave's birthday, after we sang, he told his team that no one had ever sung Happy Birthday to him. And with tears in his eyes, he disappeared out the door and went to hug a dog.

At Project POOCH youth learn **patience, responsibility, and compassion** through their work with the POOCH pups. We also provide them with a **sense of community and family**. Together, we help them grow and change, to set them on a course to becoming successful and caring community members.

Please help us continue this impactful work by making a contribution to Project POOCH today. Your donations directly support young men and shelter dogs in your community. **Together, we can make a difference.**

Thank you,



Sarah Bradham, Project POOCH Executive Director



Project POOCH on OPB

In August, Natalie Pate from OPB toured our kennel, met with our youth participants, and saw Project POOCH in action. The story was broadcast on OPB and was subsequently picked up by NPR, providing a national audience for our program. It was a meaningful moment for our program and our youth. Here at POOCH, we know that when people hear about our mission, it resonates with them. To have our mission shared on a national stage greatly expanded awareness of our program—having our youth's voices on the radio was hugely impactful. When we played the audio at the kennel, you could see a sense of pride on the faces of our youth participants as they realized that a program that they were a part of was on a statewide and national radio program.

"Yes, you're training the dog, but the dog's also training you," said Lakota, who's earned three animal training certificates in his time there. "I learned that nobody's true self is bad," he said. "We're all good on the inside, and working with dogs just shows that our true, core self is good."

Take a moment to hear the youth and the pups at pooch.org/media.

"Project POOCH has provided some of the most beautiful times in my life and taught me so much. POOCH allowed me to grow and thrive in a very safe, caring, and important place."

-Dave *

(POOCH Youth)



Support Project POOCH through Willamette Week's Give!Guide

You can help support our work AND potentially win great prizes by donating to Project POOCH through Willamette Week's Give!Guide. Thanks to our business partner, Rogue Ales, you will receive a **\$15 gift card** towards food or drinks at Rogue Ales locations if you give \$60 or more. When you **give \$10 or more on Big Give Days**, you are automatically entered into the prize drawing for the Big Give prize of the day (see below). GiveGuide is one of Project POOCH's biggest fundraisers of the year. Please help us reach our goal of \$40,000 by donating today!



UPCOMING BIG GIVE DAYS

- NOV. 26** BIG BOOKS DAY
- DEC. 03** BIG PORTLAND DAY
- DEC. 11** BIG DRINKS DAY
- DEC. 18** BIG GROCERIES DAY
- DEC. 26** BIG FLIGHTS DAY
- DEC. 27** BIG MUSIC DAY
- DEC. 28** BIG COFFEE DAY
- DEC. 29** BIG GARDEN DAY
- DEC. 30** BIG CULTURE DAY



\$2,443
raised of
\$40,000 goal

56
donations

6%
of goal

As of 11/17/2024 at 2 p.m.

DONATE at tinyurl.com/giveguideprojectpooch

Additional Ways to Support Project POOCH

By Check: Use the remittance envelope included in this mailing. Mail to Project POOCH, PO Box 305, Lake Oswego, OR 97034

Online, one-time: At pooch.org/donate

Monthly: At pooch.org/giving and select *Monthly Donation* or *Weekly Donation* from the drop down menu.

IRA/Stock: If you would like to support us through an IRA distribution or stock gift, please call **503-697-0623** or email info@pooch.org and we can help walk you through the steps.

BottleDrop: If you drink beverages that come in cans or bottles, you can support Project POOCH! You can stop by our office to pickup BottleDrop bags or have them mailed to your home.

Details: pooch.org/bottledrop.

Supply Wishlist: We are always in need of dog toys (especially stuffies!) dog treats, peanut butter, and other items we use daily at the kennel.

Details: pooch.org/wishlist.



Rosie (7.5-year-old Yorkie) & Simba (14-year-old Poodle/Pom) came to us in May when their owner could no longer care for them. There was a lot of interest from folks wanting to adopt one or the other but not wanting to take them on as a pair. These two had been together their whole lives, and Simba also needed an adopter willing to take on a senior dog. It took us longer than planned, but we found their perfect home, and they are living their dream lives. At Project POOCH, we are 100% committed to making the right home match for all our pups, no matter how long it takes.

Home for the Holidays!

Klondike, Cliff, Toby, and Ace Domino have flourished in their time at POOCH and are now ready for a home to call their own. We would love to see these four pups in their forever homes as the calendar turns from 2024 to 2025. Might that home be yours? **Details: pooch.org/adoptable-dogs**



KLONDIKE

Appx. 4-year-old Siberian Husky. Goofy, adventurous, snuggly, fun-loving guy.



CLIFFORD

Appx. 1½-year-old Kelpie Mix. He loves doggy friends, warms up slowly, and needs to go at his pace.



TOBY

Appx. 5-year-old terrier mix who hasn't met a lap he doesn't like. Confident, snuggly, happy guy.



ACE DOMINO

Appx. 5-year-old chihuahua mix. Working on his confidence, he can be shy at first.

POOCH Pups Adopted in 2024

Our youth worked with a diverse group of dogs this year. Small, medium, large, fluffy, sleek, confident, scared, and shy—they did it all! We even had two bonded pairs in 2024, a new situation for our youth. They handled it all with great patience and care and were happy to see each these pups graduate from POOCH into their forever homes.



GOMEZ



DR. PEPPER



RUFUS



WIZ



PLUTO



BO



ROSIE



SIMBA



LILY



OLIVE



VIVIENNE

Project POOCH [POOCH.ORG](https://pooch.org) • 503-697-0623 • info@pooch.org

Project POOCH, Inc.® has operated a kennel at Maclaren Youth Correctional Facility since 1993, providing opportunities for youth to learn how to manage a kennel, work with shelter dogs, learn training techniques, and help dogs find their forever homes. It's a win-win-win program for the youth, the dogs, and the community!