



JANE'S JOURNEY HOME FOR DOGS

The Story of Jane's Journey Home

The idea for Jane's Journey Home for Dogs started with Jane Barton. Jane grew up in the small town of Westfield, Wisconsin, where she developed a strong love for animals of all kinds, whether pets, domesticated farm animals, or wildlife.

She spent her adult life caring for others as a skilled x-ray technician first in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and then in San Pedro, California. During these times Jane witnessed many abandoned and suffering dogs on the streets and in shelters, desperately needing someone's help.

When Jane learned she had terminal cancer in 2013 and was given less than a year to live, she dedicated her final days and her life savings to the care of aging dogs. Having witnessed the inhumane treatment of aging animals in her community and needless suffering in death, Jane decided to leave a legacy of caring for these animals.

Before Jane died peacefully on Oct. 23, 2014, she earmarked funding to create a sanctuary for aging and special needs dogs and ensure a painless and peaceful passing when the time came.

To honor his mother, Lawrence Barton in 2021 created Jane's Journey Home for Dogs, Inc. The nonprofit organization was established to realize Jane's dream to provide a rural retirement home for geriatric dogs with trained staff, veterinarian oversight, and loving volunteers.

In the Spring of 2022 Lawrence Barton and his wife Melanie purchased the Heavenly Hills Farm near Devil's Lake in Wisconsin for Jane's Journey Home for Dogs. Nestled into the Baraboo Bluffs, this 36 acre farmette provides comfort for those that need it most.



With groomed trails for quiet walks, indoor and outdoor yards for play and rest, a visitors center, and ample community gathering spaces, Jane's Journey Home is more than just a shelter. It provides a home to aging dogs to receive palliative care as they near the end of life.

Jane's Journey Home for Dogs dedicates time to supporting aging dogs and special needs pets through community outreach and education.



The Inside Scoop with Jane's Journey Home Leaders

Rachel, Leuzinger, executive director, Jane's Journey Home

As we celebrate the close of our first successful year of providing sanctuary to elderly dogs, I'd like to thank you, our most loyal supporters, for helping us achieve our mission in 2023. Thanks to you, we were able to establish a physical place for elderly dogs to call home and make Jane Barton's final request a reality.

It was obvious to us from the start that there was a great need in the animal welfare world for an organization that focuses on caring for elderly pets. Senior pets are our most vulnerable population, and it's a sad fact that they are often overlooked by potential adopters. An average of only 5% of senior dogs are adopted annually. This puts them most at risk for premature euthanasia.

With animal shelters and rescues needing to focus on finding homes quickly for adoptable pets, seniors with extra needs often fall through the cracks. Senior dogs do not adjust well to the hustle and bustle of a busy shelter. The stress an elderly dog often feels is amplified by their reduced hearing and vision. Mobility issues, age-related illness, and pain are difficult to monitor and manage, and so often euthanasia is their only option to prevent further suffering. But we had to ask ... What if there was another option?

There's something to be said about being allowed to just BE! Whether they are handicapped, deaf, blind, or have other illnesses, every animal at the JJH sanctuary is made to feel at home and important. All belong and all are treated as family. All go at their own pace.

We focus on helping locally in order to improve the well-being of animals in our community. By providing sanctuary in the form of a retirement home and hospice care to elderly dogs, we can help to alleviate overcrowding in shelters and give these most loyal and loving companions the safety and security they deserve. Our mission to care for those most vulnerable starts in our own backyard.

Operating a retirement home for elderly dogs isn't easy. Unlike having a primary goal to find adoptable homes for pets, we are committing to the lifetime of the pet, and so we treat these sacred animals as if they are our own. Senior and seriously ill pets often come to the JJH sanctuary with medical conditions and high-cost dental needs that must be treated and managed carefully in order for them to be happy and healthy as they age. Because we take on the responsibility of caring for them for the rest of their lives, there is not an owner to consult for financial assistance, or the option to postpone care for a short period of time until a home is found.

Each senior that we welcome into the sanctuary is provided with the medical care they need to live the remainder of their lives as pain free as possible. From individualized feeding plans to the orthopedic dog beds, music, and home-like settings, everything at the sanctuary is made to help our senior dogs live comfortably.

Hospice care for dogs also takes its toll emotionally. We believe every pet deserves to live out their last years, months, weeks or even days with dignity in a place of love, security, and peace. We deal with loss on a regular basis. Each life that we transform and care for also changes each one of us. We are on this journey alongside the seniors, and we are all deeply affected. We also understand that at times it is appropriate to make end-of-life decisions based on a deteriorating quality of life. We are here to peacefully and respectfully help the animals through that journey.

Now, we look ahead to the animals we'll help find peace and security in the upcoming year. We aim to grow and give back to our community with friendly volunteer opportunities and casual events at the farm. We plan to establish resources for senior pet owners, and once again offer free produce on our farm stand for people in need.



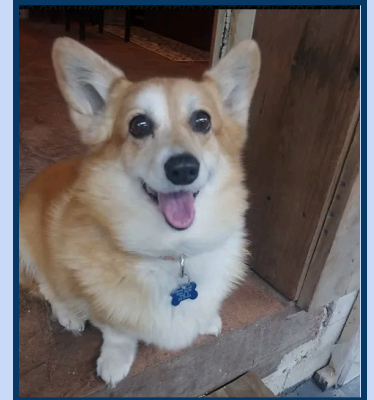
JJH Resident Spotlights

Capi

Capi, short for Cappuccino, is a 13-year-old corgi who is also known as “Queen Capi” at the JJH sanctuary.

She came to call JJH home in January 2023 when Chasing Daylight Animal Shelter reached out for help finding a home for an elderly, overweight corgi with special needs. Capi was born with angular limb anomalies in all four of her legs that affects her joints and ligaments. She has lived her whole life walking like a duck, scooting and hobbling along.

Though Capi was up for adoption, there didn't seem to be a home that could accommodate her disability. The likelihood of adoption was slim for this senior disabled corgi and she could not stay at the shelter forever.



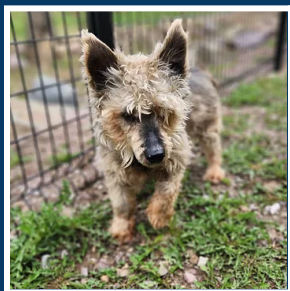
Capi's sassy personality quickly dictated that she was in charge at the JJH sanctuary, and for much of 2023 she reigned as the only female in the pack. She'll frequently bark to voice her opinion or demand attention, relenting only when pets come her way. Her disability has made moving around painful and limited, but her mobility has improved with the symptom management of palliative care alongside the medical attention and care of JJH volunteers.

Capi is happy and sassy, and continues to live her best senior life at the JJH Sanctuary and has even recently welcomed a second female dog into the pack. She finds comfort lounging half on, half off the orthopedic beds within her reach and laying in the snow outside during the winter months.

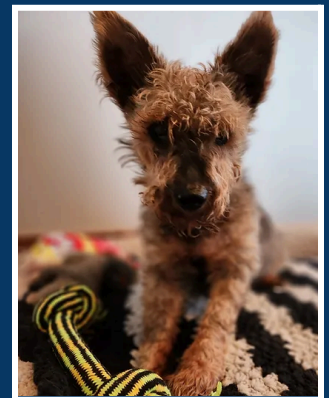
Ajax

Ajax is a schnauzer/yorkie mix who came to JJH in March 2023. He is roughly 12–15 years old and one of our hardest hardship stories with a happy ending.

Ajax came to the JJH sanctuary as a neglect and abuse case from Sauk County Humane Society. He was found tied to a patio outside in negative double digit, below zero weather. Once at the safety of the shelter, signs that his abuse ran deep were evident. He was very timid and quick to defend himself from any form of touch. Ajax's coat was also heavily matted with feces and tangles that pulled painfully at his skin. Sadly, his owner never chose to reclaim him.



A veterinarian evaluation found that Ajax has many health concerns, including issues with his mouth and skin. He had a fractured and severely infected tooth. He has since received medical attention to have these painful reminders of his previous life removed. Ajax also suffers from canine dementia and can have times when he seems lost or confused.



With time, patience and kindness from the caring JJH staff and volunteers, Ajax has emerged as a new dog. During the times when he is more lucid, Ajax gravitates towards our teenage volunteers and loves to play tag with them. He has overcome a difficult life, but Ajax is the epitome of what can happen with a loving and safe environment.



Canine Health Highlights

Hospice Vs. Palliative Canine Care

Hospice and palliative care are often conflated, but the two are not the same. Common misunderstandings can hinder the ability for seriously ill dogs to have a comforting, meaningful end of life. Knowing when a dog is appropriate for palliative or hospice care can make a vast difference in their final life chapter.

Differences

* Hospice is often called end-of-life care, meaning the final stages of a terminal illness are approaching, with months or a year of life remaining. In humans, a person becomes eligible for hospice when they are approaching the last six months of life. For dogs, that end-of-life trajectory can be less predictable, with days or months of life remaining.

* Palliative care is commonly called serious illness care. Unlike hospice, palliative care can be provided essentially at the onset of a serious or chronic illness alongside curative treatments and life-prolonging care.

Similarities

Hospice and palliative care both focus on providing pain and symptom management for canines with serious and terminal illnesses. The goal is to provide quality, supportive care as an illness progresses, creating an environment of peace and comfort based on individualized needs. This can include assessing and addressing a variety of medical, physical and emotional needs.

Determining quality in hospice and palliative care involves understanding an individual's goals and wishes. Though canines can't voice what's important to them, their physical state can give indicators of their emotional well-being. Evaluating quality of life in serious and terminally ill dogs includes assessments around appetite, hydration, dental and skin hygiene, mobility and energy levels, as well as feces and urine quality. The level of care is ongoingly evaluated as a dog's condition changes or declines.

JJH Community: Getting Involved

Valentine's Day Card Exchange

Will you be our valentine? Senior dogs have so much love to give and they want to share it with you! Send a valentine card with a donation of any amount and the JJH senior dogs will send you a valentine back for this fun, loving holiday. Mail us cards now through the end of February. Be sure to include your return address!

Jane's Journey Home for Dogs

E12367 County W, Baraboo, WI 53913

Volunteer Orientation

Join JJH in helping us care for the seniors at the farm. All are welcome! Our next new volunteer orientation is

Saturday, Feb. 17th 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 23rd 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Some of the current volunteer roles in need of the most help include:

- *Dog Walkers and Couch Cuddlers*
Walks dogs around the grounds, spends time playing with them outside or snuggling with them indoors.
- *Care Assistant*
This hands-on position contributes comfort and care by feeding and medicating the dogs. Also offers vital animal enrichment with play and snuggle time before or after meals.
- *Resident Technician*
Receives medical training to help our animals stay healthy and live their best lives. Assists with monthly exams, nail trims, and helps administer medications. Medical experience is a plus!

Email journeyhome4dogs@gmail.com for more information on how to participate in these volunteer opportunities!

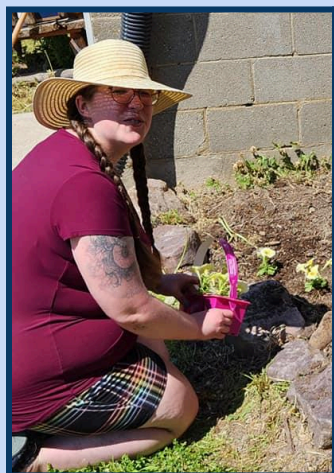


JJH Volunteer Spotlight: Becca Billingsley

Becca Billingsley has spent the better part of her life dedicated to understanding companion animals. She joined Jane's Journey Home in its earliest days as a volunteer helping to remodel the sanctuary into a place where senior dogs could cohabitate peacefully together.

Her inspiration to be a part of JJH came from many facets, but the one most dear to her heart was her own senior dog, Rhea. Rhea was a shih tzu and a puppy mill mom who passed away in 2023. She came to Becca for foster care in 2010, terrified of everyone and everything. She had spent most of her life inside a wire kennel, and that was where she wanted to stay. After months of coaxing and cowering, Rhea began coming out of her kennel and learning how to play with toys – a new adventure she had never known before.

Rhea slowly came out of her shell, but the years of abuse and neglect confined to a kennel had taken their toll. She was a traumatized dog and needed tons of understanding care. She became Becca's one and only foster fail after years of fostering other animals.

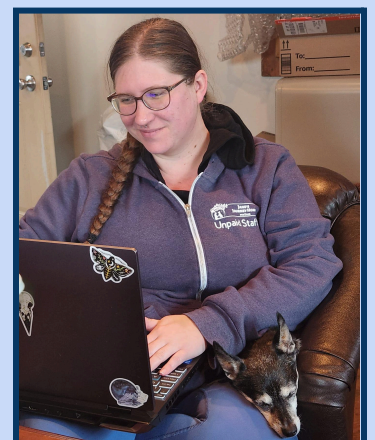


Over the years, Rhea taught Becca how to work with all types of dogs. In return, their close bond opened doors for Rhea. She became adventurous and easily adjusted to changes that life threw at her without too many complaints (for a shih tzu.) She bounded after toys, accepted new foster dogs and became a snuggle buddy for Becca's daughter. As Rhea aged, it gave Becca a deep understanding of what is most important when caring for an elderly dog. Keeping up with health care prolonged Rhea's life and improved her quality of life.

Becca felt a close connection with JJH's mission from day one. Senior dogs need the most time and dedication but to Becca, they have the most love to give. Spending time at JJH also gave Becca the support and strength when she had to say goodbye to Rhea this past year. The special gifts that Becca received over the years from Rhea, she now gives back to the senior residents at JJH.

Becca works closely with volunteers, training them to understand the individualized needs of each dog. She also assists with evaluating new dogs for admittance into the sanctuary, providing insight into how the change might affect the dog and the current pack at the sanctuary. Her focus is minimizing stress on the dogs and providing them with the utmost comfort during the transition.

Becca's commitment and knowledge of the animal welfare world brought her to the sanctuary and a position on the board of directors. In the upcoming year, Becca looks to establish easily available education for the community on how to care for senior pets. Her goal is to provide resources to owners when they need to ask the hard questions, "What will happen to a pet when something happens to their owners?" and, "How can owners secure safe and permanent places for their elderly pets at the end of life?" Becca hopes to one day retire herself and spend the rest of her time being just one of the "old dogs" at the JJH sanctuary!





Donation Opportunities

Each and every one of our successes are made possible through your gifts and support. We thank you so much for your connection in helping to sustain JJH's goal and mission to redesign views of senior animal care while focusing on quality of life and happiness for our most loyal companions. Check out the latest donation opportunities below for ways you can help support these loving animals as they age.

Pooch Playoffs

Get ready for a bracket-style competition for the cutest canine! Your \$125 entry will allow your pooch to compete for exciting prizes while benefiting JJH. Portrait sessions will be held at Sheri Birchler Photography throughout February for the competition's start in March. Each week, your dog will be matched up with another pooch to be voted the Ulti-Mutt Cutie! Winners of the Final Four will receive gifts from local pet-friendly businesses. All entrants will receive an acrylic keychain with a their pet's portrait and a swag bag of fun items.

Complete [the registration form](#) today to enter to win! Proceeds from this March Madness, bracket-style competition will be donated to JJH. Book your photography session today, only 16 spots are available!

Sheri Birchler Photography
112 S. Main St., 2nd Floor, Lodi, WI
(608) 509-3240 www.sheribirchlerphotography.com

Pet Caricature Fundraiser

Throughout the month of February our incredibly talented and generous friend, Lindsey at Expressively You, will take orders for pet caricatures for \$25, with 25% of proceeds to be donated back to Jane's Journey Home for Dogs. Details can be found on our [Facebook page](#). If you are interested in having a caricature of your pet drawn (or people too), now is the time! Here is a link to order or share: <https://bit.ly/3tjlATT>.





Winter 2024

Our Initiatives

Jane's Journey Home for Dogs, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which relies on donations and fundraising activities to provide medical care and sanctuary to aging dogs for the remainder of their lives.

JJH is dedicated to supporting aging dogs and special needs pets through community outreach and education. First and foremost, we provide a retirement home with palliative and hospice care for geriatric dogs near the end of life. And when the time comes, JJH provides a painless and peaceful journey to that end of life with love and support for our loyal companions.

[Contact Us](#) to learn more about how you can help! Any and all contributions are greatly appreciated and will help us continuously improve the sanctuary to care for our canine residents. See below for ways you can start contributing today!

Monthly Sustainer

Sign up for a small monthly donation and help care for senior dogs in a big way!

Memorial Tributes & Honorary Giving

Make a donation in memory of a beloved pet that has passed or in honor of a family member or friend that shares your passion for pets

Sponsorship

Sponsor a special event and let people know how much your business cares for animals in need.



Jane's Journey Home for Dogs
E12367 County W, Baraboo, WI 53913
608.408.3239
JourneyHome4Dogs@gmail.com
www.journeyhome4dogs.com

Open 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. 7 days a week
BY APPOINTMENT