



# JANE'S JOURNEY HOME FOR DOGS

## Jane's Journey Home for Dogs Celebrates 1st Year

The first year here at Jane's Journey Home for Dogs has brought much joy, some heart break and an unending sense of accomplishment for everyone involved. Our anniversary on June 3rd came and went in a blink of an eye, almost unnoticed, amidst the daily operations and dedication of our team toward the wellbeing of all our residents. We have spent this last year fine tuning what our sanctuary needs to provide happiness, a sense of purpose, and the best comfort and care for our seniors. What we've found includes taking new approaches to ever changing senior care, whether it be additional medical diagnostics, special beds, individual diets and even taking some of our more arthritic seniors to a chiropractor. Making every day count for them and providing specialized end of life care that so many senior dogs do not have access to these days has given us the drive to keep our focus on improving their living space and changing as needed. Medical bills, as expected, have been high, but even greater than expected. With each new dog that we take in, we must always consider what their immediate needs are in order to be comfortable, what they will likely be in the near future and can we provide that for them. As their final home, we must take on all their medical needs and, as seniors, those needs are often great. Unlike traditional rescues there are no future homes to take on these costs. We are their home. It has been largely thanks to those who have donated specialized foods, medical supplies, funds, and other items that we have been successful in this major endeavor.



Our first year came with many new senior residents of all shapes and sizes and individual needs looking for a peaceful place to rest their heads and just BE. And as time passed we also experienced the loss of some of our most beloved and longest term residents. While heartbreaking for us all to experience, we found solace in knowing that all of those who have left us did not need to know suffering and were given the love they so truly deserved until the last moment. Our mission to provide loving homelike care to each and every dog that walks through our door has been met and we will continue to pursue that goal.

### Looking Ahead

As we look toward the future, we plan to expand our establishment into a better equipped facility in order to offer more senior dogs with special needs a place to call home and enjoy their golden years without fear of abandonment. This includes adding private spaces better equipped for single dogs or small groups to relax in and decompress while they acclimate to the sanctuary and busier moments around the sanctuary. We also aim to become a greater resource in Wisconsin for those caring for senior dogs. The rewards of helping senior dogs remain at home with their owners and helping senior owners plan for their beloved pets is the ultimate form of outreach.



During our first year, we had the pleasure of assisting a few of our community members by taking their elderly dogs to much needed vet appointments so that they could continue to live their best lives at home. We've established a positive presence in our community simply by having conversations with people. Giving presentations to youth groups and senior groups while also meeting wonderfully diverse people brought together by their love of animals at our booths during local events has helped us grasp a better understanding of what senior pet owners need and want to learn. Now, we look forward to continuing to join with Wisconsinites to help teach our community about caring for pets as they age and planning ahead for our furry friends as we ourselves age. We see a great value in taking the time to talk with people about these difficult decisions in order to remove the stigma of discussing end of life situations.

We are also very proud to have established working relationships with multiple humane societies and reputable WI rescues and are able to offer them an alternative to premature euthanasia. Our goal is to alleviate some small amount of pressure on the hardworking staff at these animal welfare organizations.

The birth and development of an organization is simultaneously a wonderful and nerve-wracking thing to behold. No matter how much research you do there are always unexpected costs and curve balls thrown at you. Here at Jane's Journey Home for Dogs we truly do move at the wise old dog's pace. From Jane Barton's initial conception in 2013 to establishing our non-profit in 2021 to purchasing the property in 2022 to our grand opening in 2023, we have worked hard to plan and secure our place in the animal welfare world. And, after our first year of operation, we can now budget more realistically towards the needs for our residents in order to fulfill our mission. As we look to the future, our most pressing goal will be to not only secure our monthly budgeted funds but to establish a medical fund specifically to care for the ever-growing needs of our elderly residents. We cannot expand and grow without first making sure that those we take in have what they need to live peacefully in comfort.

### With gratitude

We could have never imagined the outpouring of support and compassion from the community we call home and are eternally grateful for those who volunteer their time, bring donations and spread the word about our mission. We see you walking down the Baraboo streets in our sweatshirts! Without the effort of each of you, just outside of our small town and beyond, we would never have made it this far.

We hope that Jane is smiling down upon us with joy and a full heart watching as we bloom and grow into something that will hopefully be a cherished establishment in Baraboo.



## Holiday Appeal

For many families, this is their favorite time of year, as family and loved ones gather together in joyful celebration and thanks. I too am incredibly grateful for the gifts 2024 has brought. My family is healthy and my home is filled with the warmth and love of furry companions. And, I am extremely grateful for the opportunities to truly bring peace and dignity back to some very special senior dogs at Jane's Journey Home for Dogs (JJH). But not everyone, or every animal has the opportunity to feel warm and safe this holiday season. As you gather together and feel the love of the season, I ask that you consider making one more gift. This time to help our small non-profit care for some very special seniors.

Your donations, no matter the amount, can make an enormous impact at JJH. This year, your donations have helped us offer sanctuary and pain free hospice care to 19 elderly companions. This may not seem like a very big number but when you take into consideration that each and every one of these dogs were brought to the sanctuary with the intention to provide a loving home to them for the remainder of their lives that number IS significant. Each of these dogs received hundreds of dollars, sometimes thousands, of medical care. They were given more than just a small kennel to live in. They were given a sense of belonging, caring volunteers to spend their days with, toys, soft beds, and personalized care plans to help them live their final chapters to the fullest. For many of these dogs, this very well may be their last Christmas. Because of your generous donations, we have been able to open our doors to senior dogs that need more than just a little extra help to make them comfortable.

### Diesel's Story

Diesel is one such dog. Diesel's story is frustrating in so many ways. Not because someone specifically "did him wrong," but simply because one thing after another happened to this little cattle dog that eventually landed him on a euthanasia list. Diesel is 7 ½ years old, barely a senior. Sometime in the years prior, he suffered an injury to his right hip and dislocated it. The injury was mostly left untreated and caused his hip to heal in an awkward way. This led to some pretty severe and painful hip dysplasia on his right side. But our perfectly portly little cattle dog did not complain, and only displayed an occasional little hop when trotting around. Years after his injury, Diesel was surrendered to the humane society. He quickly became a staff favorite when he took to carrying his stuffed animals outside with him and snuggled them like friends in his kennel at night. But, like most seniors, he was overlooked time and time again for adoption. Days turned into weeks that turned into months. He developed and recovered from kennel cough. Through it all, Diesel put on a brave display, but his sad eyes told everyone, he missed the love of human companionship. His "stiffies" became his only real comfort.



When Diesel was surrendered to the shelter, much of his history was lost. No previous veterinary clinic or records were given. When pets are rehomed at least some, if not most, of their story is lost. The shelter was a busy place and Diesel watched many younger dogs come and go, finding their forever homes, while he still

waited. The staff tried to promote him, but with so many homeless animals looking for homes, a portly senior cattle dog was a hard sell to most potential adopters.

After being at the shelter for six months, it was noticed that Diesel had an occasional limp after exercising. He was examined and placed on an anti-inflammatory for four days and started on treatment for a tick borne disease. The shelter vet recommended that he rest and if the limp did not subside, they should consider radiographs. Four days came and went and the limp did not subside. So, to an outside vet Diesel went to have x-rays taken of his hind legs. Then, the pieces of the puzzle started to come together. His right hip showed the untreated signs of his old injury; painful hip dysplasia. The diagnosis was devastating. Surgery was more than the shelter could possibly designate towards one animal, especially one that had so many other things stacked against him. The senior dog had been there for six months without being adopted and it was likely he never would be. With his new diagnosis and the extensive surgery and recovery time needed, Diesel's chances of ever finding a home were non-existent. The shelter was left with one option. Euthanasia.



I happened to be visiting the shelter that day when they told me the grave news about Diesel. Their hearts were breaking and so was mine. This was the exact situation that JJH was created for. Without thinking about what it would take or how we would come up with the funds, I blurted out "Can I take him to Jane's?" And so, Diesel came to the JJH sanctuary. His luck had finally turned. Diesel received a full exam with our veterinarian and an orthopedic consultation. He will need a Femoral Head Ostectomy or FHO surgery. Even with generous discounts from both the orthopedic surgeon and the veterinary clinic, this surgery alone will

cost over \$3,000. We couldn't have even considered taking in a senior dog with this type of medical need a year ago. But here we are, looking at the generosity of supporters like you and the gifts you have shared this year to help our seniors, and I know that together we can help Diesel too.

### **We are making a difference - together!**

Our animal welfare system in this country is broken. Shelters are overwhelmed with unwanted animals. Veterinary clinics and animal welfare staff are pushed to the point of exhaustion, bankruptcy, and depression just trying to help. Senior pets are the most likely to fall through the cracks and have the system fail them. But, now we are part of that system. We are a small, private, non-profit organization, but we are here to help. Even if it is one senior at a time. With your help, we can help Diesel.

As you wrap up your final gifts and mail your last holiday cards this season, I ask you to extend your generosity just a little further and send just one more gift to help Diesel and the senior dogs at the JJH sanctuary. Your [donation](#) will give these dogs the warmth and peace they have been waiting their whole lives to receive.

With heartfelt gratitude,

*Rachel, Leuzinger, executive director, Jane's Journey Home for Dogs*

## JJH Resident Spotlights



### **Bella**

Bella is a 13-year-old American bulldog mix whose journey to a peaceful and loving life in her final years is both touching and heartwarming. She came into our care in April 2024 after her owner could no longer provide the care she needed. Originally adopted from Columbia County Humane Society, Bella ended up back in their care but with severe health issues that made her unadoptable. Due to a large mass growing on her side and broken teeth, she had nowhere to go. Despite these challenges, she remained a sweet and affectionate dog, eager for love and attention. So CCHS reached out to us to provide Bella refuge.

Recognizing her gentle spirit and desire for companionship, we immediately knew Bella would be a wonderful addition to the sanctuary and made arrangements to bring her to the sanctuary where she could live out her final chapter in comfort and peace. Bella quickly became a beloved member of the sanctuary. She radiates happiness and love to all who meet her. Her enthusiasm for life shines through as she greets volunteers with excitement and eagerly awaits her daily walks. Despite the cancerous tumor that continues to grow, Bella remains pain-free and content, thanks to the dedicated care of

the volunteers, staff and medical team.

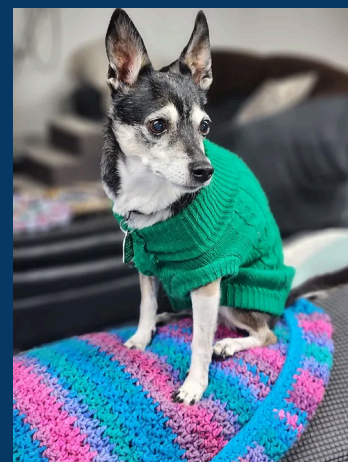
In her hospice care, Bella has everything she needs—affection, companionship, and plenty of cozy beds to snuggle on with her fellow residents. Her days are filled with love and joy, and her spirit remains as vibrant as ever. Bella's journey reminds us of the importance of providing a safe, loving environment for senior dogs. She is truly cherished by all who have the privilege of knowing her and will finish her journey here at the sanctuary, as it should be for everyone, with dignity.

### **Gizmo**

If you've ever visited the sanctuary, you almost certainly met little Gizmo. Gizmo has resided at JJH since March of 2023 and is our longest standing resident. He frequently serenades visitors with his larger-than-life howls from the back of the couch until he gets the entire sanctuary going with their barks and yips in greeting. But, Gizmo wasn't always this secure and his story is sadly, all too familiar.

Gizmo's story started with JJH after we were contacted by a local rescue. His life had been turned upside-down when his owner passed away, losing his home and the only person he knew. The first night Gizmo was at the sanctuary he was placed in a quiet room to decompress, but the tiny terrier had other ideas. He never wanted to be alone again and begged to be let into the sanctuary with the other dogs. And so we listened. He made his way to a couch to sleep and when he realized that he was alone on the couch he let out his first of many howls until another dog joined him to provide comfort. Gizmo's medical journey is a lengthy one. He is now comfortable and enjoys climbing into laps before you can sit down and then, doing somersaults on the couch in exchange for full body pets.

Late this past summer, Gizmo's health took a turn for the worse, became lethargic and stopped eating. During the end-of-life consultation with our geriatric specialist at SagePet we came up with a hail mary plan. It was touch and go for the next few days with our team taking Gizmo home each night to continue his round the clock care. Ever so slowly he began to lift his head again. It turns out, Gizmo was hypertensive and his eye infection had resulted in painful glaucoma in his right eye. With new medications that now included eye drops to decrease his eye pressure we started to see the fight come back to our beloved Gizmo. Today, Gizmo has regained his perch on the back of the couch, directing the "old hound dog choir." He requires seven daily medications to keep him comfortable but to the unsuspecting eye he is a happy, bossy, snuggler, that prefers elaborate meals eaten in bed. And we wouldn't have it any other way.



## 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 Jan. 14th 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, Jan. 11th 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.

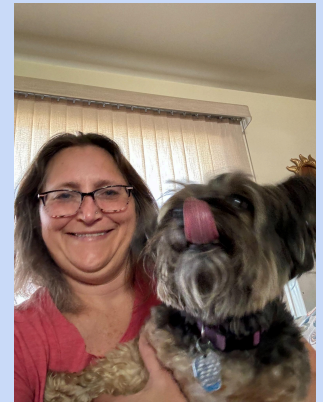
- *Care Assistant*

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.

Email [journeyhome4dogs@gmail.com](mailto:journeyhome4dogs@gmail.com) for more information on how to participate in these volunteer opportunities!

## JJH Volunteer Spotlight: Michelle R.

Michelle joined Jane's Journey Home for Dogs (JJH) in Jan of 2023 when we only had three senior dogs residing at the sanctuary. She discovered JJH's mission even before we had taken in our first retirees right after the property was purchased and we had our first rummage sale. Once she heard about our mission and plans for the property, she immediately wanted to help the sanctuary become a success and give what time and efforts she could to help build the foundations we needed for volunteers. Michelle brought with her a deep love of animals, especially dogs, and was looking to fill the void of being without her own pets due to a busy lifestyle. Her optimistic look on life, patience, and hard working attitude filled many gaps at the sanctuary in those early days. Those wonderful traits along with her adaptability has continued to help JJH provide the best care for our elderly dogs while also bridging the gap between staff and volunteers.



Michelle has spent much of her time here at JJH building rewarding bonds with our special canine residents. Our recently departed Ajax was especially close to her heart. Michelle loved him dearly and spent countless days gaining his trust until, to her shock and delight, he trusted her enough to snuggle and give her kisses (a rare opportunity with Ajax who was severely neglected and not given the love he rightly deserved in his earlier life). As well as an adopted Alumni, Jack, whom she even dog-sits for on occasion.

Michelle's compassion comes from an understanding that senior dogs have a special place in this world and need consistent love from familiar faces to keep them at peace. Coming to volunteer at JJH brings her joy when she is able to make connections with our seniors whose cognitive states are not what they once were. Building trust with those residents who have dementia gives her a wholesome outlook on life and her patience with them gives them a sense of belonging and family. In return, our resident provides her with the energy to greet them in the mornings with kindness and make a difference in their lives each day she is here.



Michelle has been an incredibly giving volunteer not only learning to feed and medicate the dogs but also taking on the vital task of training others to do so. This has allowed her to build important bonds with volunteers as well. In addition Michelle volunteers at special events and helps with event planning. She has also tackled the job of organizing the sanctuary's many donations and supply shelves. Her willingness to do this daunting task makes it easy for the rest of the volunteers and staff to find items they need.

Michelle hopes to continue to connect with new residents, no matter where they come from. Her dedication to JJH's mission brings a special bit of happiness to everyone, especially the residents. We are truly lucky to have Michelle with us as often as we do and why we are honored to highlight her substantial service in our Volunteer Spotlight.

## 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.

### Endless Pawsabilities Pet Grooming

From the owner of Endless Pawsabilities - Shauna

*"It's time for our Christmas fundraiser!!!! As you all know every year I choose an organization to raise money and items for and as many of you may be guessing, that organization is **Jane's Journey Home for Dogs!** If you don't know what Jane's is about, they are a fantastic organization that delivers hospice care to elderly dogs that have no place to go. I am so passionate about what they do and love sharing their story! We are kicking off our fundraiser event with a couple raffles, we have a \$100 gift certificate from us for in salon use and we will also be raffling off a gift certificate from our friends over at [Webb Avenue Nutrition!](#) Raffle tickets will be \$10 even and ALL proceeds from these tickets will be going to Jane's to help care for these senior dogs! And as always, we are still taking items for donations too and you will receive 10% off any purchase you make here with us 😊😊  
Happy holidays!!!!!"*

126 S Walnut St. Reedsburg, WI 53959  
608-495-1612 <https://www.endlesspawsabilitiesllc.com/>

### Calendars now available - \$15

Get your 2025 JJH Calendar sponsored by [Pampered Paws Pet Resort](#) and [American Container LLC](#). Heroes come in every age, shape, and size. Our first ever calendar features the heroic members of Baraboo Fire/EMS and those that rescue your heart, the JJH sanctuary dogs. For \$15, they are the perfect holiday gift! All proceeds will go directly towards providing a loving retirement home and end of life care to senior dogs at the sanctuary.

Get yours today at these local businesses:

- Baraboo Fire Station
- Pampered Paws Pet Resort (WI Dells)
- Village Booksmith
- Labrynth Games
- Landscape Techniques
- XEL Med Spa
- Buttons Art Tattoo Studio
- Animal House Pet Supplies (Sauk City)
- The Baraboo Shop
- A Sense of Adventure
- Seek Boutique
- Twisted Dimensions Tattoo Studio (Lake Delton)
- Endless Pawsabilities Pet Grooming (Reedsburg)



## Merchandise Store

We've partnered with WI based, family operated company Geiger Awards & Apparel to offer you all the JJH swag you might want! Get all your favorite old dog swag from t-shirts and hoodies to tanks and tumblers right [HERE](#).

Proceeds from the sale of JJH merchandise will go towards helping us provide important medical care and comfort to the senior dogs at the sanctuary. Plus, when you sport our high quality swag around town, you tell everyone how much you care about senior dogs and that old does not mean obsolete!

## 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 January and 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 their pet's portrait and a swag bag of fun items.



Registration begins early next year. Watch Sheri's website (link below) and our facebook page for more info soon so you can enter to win! Proceeds from this March Madness, bracket-style competition will be donated to JJH. Book your photography session today, only 32 spots are available!

## Sponsorship Opportunity:

Are you a business owner who would like to contribute to this Ulti-mutt event and have your business featured in marketing? Sponsorship is due at the beginning of January so don't wait! Click on this link for more info and all the juicy details.

**Sheri Birchler Photography**  
112 S. Main St., 2nd Floor, Lodi, WI  
(608) 509-3240 [www.sheribirchlerphotography.com](http://www.sheribirchlerphotography.com)

## 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

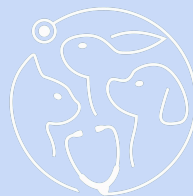
Make a donation in memory of a beloved pet that has passed or in honor of a family member or friend that shares your passion for pets

### Sponsorship

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

#### Annual Events

- Planting for Paws
- Haunted Trail for Senior Tails
- 0.5K Senior Dog Dash
- JJH Calendar



SagePet  
HOME VETERINARY CARE

<https://thesagepet.com/>

Jane's Journey Home for Dogs  
E12367 County W, Baraboo, WI 53913  
608.408.3239

[JourneyHome4Dogs@gmail.com](mailto:JourneyHome4Dogs@gmail.com)

[www.journeyhome4dogs.com](http://www.journeyhome4dogs.com)

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