



# PROD

## Promoting Responsible Ownership of Dogs

209 Oak Street, Hood River • 541-387-DOGS (3647) • <http://www.proddogs.org>  
Mailing Address: 7741 Cook-Underwood Road, Underwood, WA 98651

### Personal Stories

These pages contain some of the personal stories of people and pets who have been involved with PROD over the years. If you've had an experience with our organization and would like to share it with others, please e-mail us at [info@proddogs.org](mailto:info@proddogs.org).



I have had dogs all my life, but Mix is special. I am grateful to Cleo for teaching him that people can be trusted. He is a loyal and loving companion.

(Pam T.)

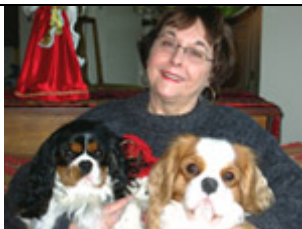
#### MIX

Eight years ago we brought Mix home from PROD.

A border collie mix, he was pretty neurotic from obvious puppy trauma. He was hiding under the steps while all the other puppies ran around looking lively and cute.

He captured our twelve year old son's heart, and we had to have Mix. For the last 8 years Mix has been our best friend and companion. Although we got him for our son, he immediately decided that he was MY dog, and he is never far from my side.

I work at home, and his eyes follow me around the room, he lays behind my desk chair while I work, and he jumps several feet into the air when I say "walk." He may not walk as quickly as he used to, but then, neither do I.



#### Tekoa and Beau

This is a photo of my two cavaliers, Tekoa and Beau. They are not PROD dogs, but would be proud to be so!!

(Susan H., PROD Volunteer)



## Lucy

I can't say enough about Lucy's wonderful traits. She is the best companion, the smartest, happiest, friendliest, prettiest, most loyal, respectful, faithful, talented, protective, charming, playful pet I have had the joy to know.

As a PROD dog, I am proud she adopted me to share her life with. No one compares to my wonderful Lucy!

(Frankee E.)



## Paloma

We got our sweet doggie in Nov. of 2000. She was about 7 mos. old at the time. Having come from a Hispanic family, her name was Paloma. We renamed her Cleo, one of a number of namesakes for Cleo Sterling.

She is mostly white (hence, Paloma) with a little beige. She has really cute ears, one of them flopping over while the other stands upright. We also find it interesting that she is 'self cleaning.' She can roll in something nasty or get muddy around the farm and a day or so later, she's white again.

She also can't, as the joke says, hold her licker. She's always giving us kisses, and loves to have her tummy scratched. We're really lucky to have her.

(Bev and Bernie)



## Cosmo & Boo

My name is Carol. I have been a PROD volunteer since day one, over 10 years ago. I am so proud to be a member of this wonderful organization and all that we dedicated volunteers and loyal supporters have accomplished together. These are our "kids"-Cosmo & Beo. Cosmo is our precious PROD puppy.

(Carol W., PROD Volunteer)



## Modi

At seven years old, Modi, is trim, active and enjoys his daily romps at the river or on Indian Creek. Sometimes, I just look at him in awe. He is simply a wonderful friend and I feel so blessed to have him in my life. If you are reading this, chances are you are a dog person and understand the passion with which I love Modi.

Modi is so well behaved and responded very well to his Canine Good Citizen class. He passed with flying colors. He especially enjoys visiting young children in their classrooms and senior citizens at their group homes. Most of all he likes to cuddle with our other dog, two cats and us on lazy mornings.

Thank you PROD. Modi is well and gets lots of love.

(Linda R.)



## Stella and Luna

This is a picture of my girls Stella and Luna.

Stella and Luna were the puppies of a black lab and german shepherd. Probably the most common mix we see. Their mother was impregnated by a wandering male. I came across them in a box in front of Walmart, their mother had been hit by a car and killed, they were 4 weeks old.



The person trying to re-home them advised me they were from a litter of 7. Less than a year later I saw this same person in front of Walmart with another litter of puppies. Apparently they had kept one of Stella and Luna's sisters and she had been impregnated by the same wandering male, the result, another litter of 7!

I asked the women to please get her dog spayed, she promised she would. Later that year I saw her again in front of the Walmart, another litter of 9. Unfortunately, I know for a fact not all these puppies got good homes.

In the United States thousands of dogs are euthanized everyday. There are not enough homes for all these beautiful creatures. Please spay and neuter!

(Jackie S., PROD Volunteer)



We are so grateful to have been able to spend so many years with them; trusted friends, guards, educators and entertaining companions.

We are also grateful that they were able to spend their last years in Hood River, hiking, swimming and running through the orchards.

Bonnie and Charlie were very proud to be mascots for PROD, a wonderful organization that is essential to our community in helping residents understand the importance of dog and cat ownership.

## Charlie and Bonnie

Charlie, a black Labrador mix, was adopted from the Anti-Cruelty Society of Chicago in July 1998, by Steve, whom I did not know at the time. Charlie and Steve were inseparable, and while walking one day, they met me and Zena (my dog at the time).

After that, the four of us were inseparable for the next 4 years until Zena passed away. Charlie and Zena had both gone through training as therapy dogs and visited a residential treatment home for children in Chicago every month for three years.

A year after Zena died, in November 2003, we adopted Bonnie, a Shepherd mix, from the Chicago Canine Rescue. Bonnie also went through the pet therapy training and joined Charlie at the Children's home.

In June 2004, the four of us (and our cat, a former stray named Scruffy) moved to Hood River and immediately found PROD and offered our services.

Bonnie and Charlie soon after accompanied Dave Radley to dozens of elementary and middle school classrooms around the county to teach children about responsible pet ownership. The dogs loved their outings with Dave to visit the kids! They would readily leave the house with him, or his daughter Jesi, and return hours later, tired but satisfied.

Unfortunately, last summer both Charlie and Bonnie were diagnosed with different forms of cancer. Charlie passed away in December and Bonnie passed in February.

(Janet and Steve)





## Spanky and Sabre

Spanky "So Silly" Sterling and Sabre "So Happy" Sterling are both PROD dogs who bring us much joy.

When we introduced Mr. So Happy to little Ms. So Silly, our 10 year old Sabre wasn't exactly thrilled. Since that time they have become best of friends and our dear companions.

Spanky loves to make new friends. She's an active participant in many PROD events. I'm very proud of her.

(Cleo & Jerry, PROD Volunteers)



## Tanner

We rescued Tanner when he was about a year old and on the verge of being shot by his owner. He was originally purchased through a kennel in WA which was eventually shutdown for horrific abuse of all their dogs so Tanner's first 6 weeks were most likely a nightmare in itself.

His new owners were no better...he was kicked, shot at with beebees, ignored and thrown outside to sleep on a pile of house insulation.

This treatment caused Tanner to withdraw by curling into a ball and hiding his face whenever anyone approached him.

My daughter witnessed this abuse one day on a job. She called me then made arrangements for Tanner to come home with us immediately, however, his first year of abuse had taken its toll by removing all hope of him ever being a normal dog.

It took us almost a month of hand feeding and changing his bedding constantly because he was so weak he couldn't stand to go outside to potty and another 5 years for him to stop hiding his face from strangers.

Tanner did survive and is now 'Loving Life' as his picture shows. He cocks his head to the side, smiles, spreads his fingers and prances when he sees us.....he's our constant companion and has been a gift that has shown us his soul through his eyes.

(JoAnn A., PROD Volunteer)



Tanner is our little boy. He's a Bull Mastiff, about 11 years old, and weighed-in today at 125.5 lbs.



### **Meesha** (A PROD Volunteer)

Meesha joined our family a little over a year ago and has become a wonderful addition to our household.

She enjoys accompanying me to several PROD events as well as visits to The Care Center. She shares my passion for volunteering and inspires me to unconditionally give my time and energy to PROD, as well as to myself with long walks.

Being a responsible owner has taught me the value of a long and loving relationship with my pets.

:) Maxine Reiersen  
PROD Volunteer Coordinator and Operation Outreach Education.



### **Lucy (aka Lucegoose)**

In 2001, Lucy was found wandering a neighborhood; scared, dirty and very pregnant. A nice woman befriended Lucy and helped put her in the care of a non profit organization in San Diego called FOCAS. FOCAS did not have an available foster place for Lucy at the time, so she was taken to the local shelter. Shortly after she arrived, she was spade, her puppies were aborted and she was placed on the adoption list.

When I first met her at the shelter, she was hiding in a corner. When I approached her, she started to shake uncontrollably. She looked as though she had suffered a lot at the hands of her previous owner. The minute I saw her sweet disposition and her big sad eyes, I knew that I wanted to give her the loving home that she deserved.

Lucy was terrified of every sound, every person and every unfamiliar motion that I would make. She often hid under the kitchen table and would refuse to eat if anyone else was in the room with her. Over the course of time, with lots of love and trust building exercises, she began to truly bond with me. She started to trust strangers and didn't feel the need to hide as often as she used to do.

Lucy spent the first year of her life with a terrible person that saw her as a weapon and not a living creature that deserves love and respect. Many people judge her because of her breed. I know we have all heard stories of pit bulls, but I say punish the deed, not the breed. Just like all other dogs she deserves a chance.

Lucy is a loving dog that brings a great deal of joy to us and to others that know her. I could not imagine my life without her.

(Sandra M., PROD Volunteer)

Please let us know if you have a story you want to share. Write to us at [info@proddogs.org](mailto:info@proddogs.org)