

Concern for Animals is a non-profit, 501(c)3 located in Olympia, WA. We provide spay/neuter and emergency medical care funds to low-income families in the Thurston, Mason, and Lewis Counties, as well as running a Pet Food Bank for families in need. **Concern for Animals** began with a vision to help those who cannot help themselves, and for the past 30 years that's exactly what we've been doing. We've assisted thousands of animals in need with the help of volunteers and our surrounding communities. We rely on membership dues, donations, grants, estate bequests and fundraising projects to support our programs.

Concern for Animals is unique in its mission. Rather than focusing on re-homing pets, our focus is to keep pets with their families. Our goal is to keep families together. We have seen families do everything they can to care for their pets, above and beyond their own personal care at times. We strive to assist as many families with pets as we can.

We also understand how important it is to educate the public through outreach. We attend legislative hearings, lobby for animal rights, and attend public events to let people know that we are here to help and make a difference.

Making ourselves known to the public has greatly increased our ability to assist those in need. We are a point of contact for those that feel as though they have no other option.

Case in point: Steve and Selah.

Steve was going through a tough time. After a difficult divorce, Steve went from living in a large, 5,100 square foot home on Camano Island to living with friends and staying where he could when he could. In a situation that seemingly could not get any worse, Steve suffered a broken back after being hit by a car, then lost his position as Vice President at a Fortune 200 mortgage company, and lost everything—everything but his beloved companion, Selah. Selah, a black Labrador, was Steve's service dog. She was trained to alert Steve and anyone around him when Steve was going to have a seizure. In a desperate attempt to care for Selah and figure out how to feed her, Steve visited Petco in West Olympia to seek assistance. There, a sales associated encouraged him to contact Concern for Animals for help.



Steve admitted he never imagined he'd be in a position to need support or charity. After calling our office and making arrangements with our office manager, he received quality food for Selah. Steve appreciated getting an adequate amount of food so he didn't have to travel to different banks to get a day or two of food supply.

Steve's story reminds us that anyone, at any point in time, can fall on tough times. It's important to be grateful.

"I know there are people worse off than me," said Steve. "The worst time was Christmas. I couldn't afford to buy my dog a toy. Concern for Animals made sure Selah had a new ball." Steve has since moved to Montana in the hopes of finding a job and to be closer to family.

We see and hear stories like Steve's on a daily basis. In order to continue to help animals and the people that care for them, Concern for Animals needs your help.

We are entering Fenced in by Love by Dog Fence DIY 2014 because, like Dog Fence DIY, we at Concern for Animals have a deep love of animals and a desire to help those that cannot help themselves.

